



# NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 12, 2006  
Bulletin Number 6

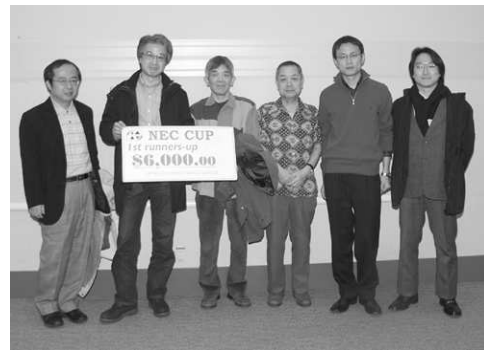
Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

## Israel Wins 2006 NEC Cup

That makes it two straight wins—and three straight finals—for the quartet from Israel. Two years ago they finished second and vowed to come back and win the next year. Last year they kept their word and now they've done it again. So as we go to press, a petition is being drawn up somewhere in downtown Yokohama to revoke their visas before the 2007 NEC bridge Festival begins.



2006 NEC Cup Winners

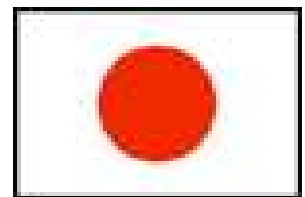


2006 NEC Cup Runners Up

### NEC Cup Final: Quarter-by-Quarter Results



| Team      | C/O | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | Final      |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Israel    | .5  | 36              | 39              | 34              | 26              | <b>135</b> |
| JAPAN-YOI |     | 16              | 26              | 33              | 51              | 126        |



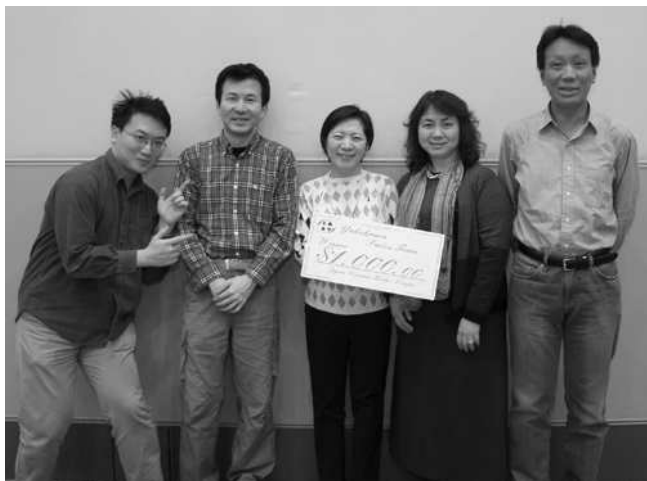
### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 11<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html> – or – <http://www.jcbl.or.jp>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

## Yokohama Swiss Teams



The Winners: Liu Zheng, Hideki Takano, Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Tadashi Teramoto



Runners up: two-way tie

| Rank  | VPs | Team Members  |
|-------|-----|---|
| 1     | 190 | Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Hideki Takano, Liu Zheng              |
| 2-3   | 177 | Benedicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard                  |
| 2-3   | 177 | Miwako Hayashi, Keiko Shinkai, Junko Arakawa, Shigeko Kimura                            |
| 4     | 173 | Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Atsushi Kuwabara, Kazuo Saeki                           |
| 5     | 172 | Sei Nagasaka, Takeshi Hanayama, Masayuki Hayasaka, Toshiko Kaho                         |
| 6     | 163 | Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Andrew McIntosh, Jack Mizel                               |
| 7-8   | 157 | Larry Mori, Venlatrao Koneru, Paul Lewis, Linda Smith, Phillippe Cronier, Subhash Gupta |
| 7-8   | 157 | Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans                             |
| 9     | 156 | Yoko Nenohi, Hiroko Sekiyama, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo                             |
| 10    | 155 | Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire                                  |
| 11    | 153 | Midori Sakaguchi, Yoshiko Sakaguchi, Koji Yamada, Yuko Yamada                           |
| 12    | 150 | Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka, Sonoko Namba, Chizuo Sugiura                              |
| 13    | 149 | Natsuko Nishida, Midori Sakamoto, Tadashi Jomura, Nobuko Setoguchi, Hiroko Ota          |
| 14    | 147 | Toyohiko Ozawa, Kazuko Kawashima, Terumi Kubo, Yumiko Oda                               |
| 15-16 | 146 | Mitsuko Abe, Kimiko Nishimura, Kiyomi Shibata, Shizuko Ishida                           |
| 15-16 | 146 | Michiko Ono, Toyoko Saito, Fumiko Kimura, Minako Takahashi                              |
| 17-19 | 143 | Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata, Takahiko Hirata, Kazuhiko Yamada, Hiroya Abe |
| 17-19 | 143 | Ryoga Tanaka, Sadako Nakajima, Yukiko Hoshi, Tomoyuki Harada                            |
| 17-19 | 143 | Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Toyoko Nakakawaji, Toshiko Hiramori                     |
| 20-21 | 142 | Chieko Ichikawa, Junko Den, Kuniko Saito, Atsuko Kurita                                 |
| 20-21 | 142 | Masaharu Takatori, Yoko Fukuyama, Toyomitsu Kanebako, Etsuko Takano                     |
| 22-23 | 141 | Akiko Miwa, Kunio Kodaira, Teruo Miyazaki, Mitsuko Shimizu                              |
| 22-23 | 141 | Yasuyo Iida, Mariko Matsukawa, Misae Kato, Kimiko Kamakari                              |
| 24    | 140 | Junko Yamashiro, Yoko Shimominami, Yoko Yoshimoto, Keiko Kimura                         |
| 25    | 139 | Haruko Koshi, Mieko Nakanishi, Yoko Oosako, Misuzu Ichihashi                            |
| 26-29 | 138 | Ilsuh Chung, Jungyoon Park, Kyunghae Sung, Youngjoon Lee                                |
| 26-29 | 138 | Mitsutaka Takemura, Kazuhisa Ishizaki, Hisao Matsumoto, Yoko Matsumoto                  |
| 26-29 | 138 | Osami Kimura, Kinzaburo Nishino, Mamiko Odaira, Yumiko Kichise                          |
| 26-29 | 138 | Chihiro Nakajima, Toshihiko Nagusa, Satoki Takizawa, Toshiro Yamaguchi                  |
| 30    | 136 | Tsuneo Sakurai, Kenichi Izaki, Atsushi Kikuchi, Takehiko Tada                           |
| 31    | 134 | Kumiko Sasahira, Masaaki Takayama, Hiroshi Kaku, Ruri Ote, Masaki Yoshida               |
| 32-33 | 133 | Mitsuyo Naniwada, Ryo Matsubara, Ayako Matsubara, Masaru Naniwada                       |
| 32-33 | 133 | Emiko Tamura, Yasuko Kosaka, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Yoko Saito, Harue Iemori                |
| 34    | 131 | Kazuhiko Kawana, Miyako Suzuki, Junkichi Sawai, Kazuko Kawahara                         |
| 35    | 130 | Jim Mahaffey, Barnet Shenkin, Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola, Mark Lair, Gary Cohler   |

# Mind Sports “Come Together” in Japan

## Mind Sports Introductory Corner (lessons):

**Announcing the first collaborative work of three mind sports associations in Japan; all participants in IMSA. (A bigger and better event can be planned and held at next year's NEC Cup. This is just a trial.)**

**Games: Chess, Bridge and Go**

**Dates: Feb. 9, 10, 11, 2006 (Holidays)**

**Time: 10:00 - 16:00 (depending on visitors, may be longer)**

**Place: Yokohama Exhibition Center Annex, Room 205**

**Chess**

- 1. Introductory lessons - First Step to Play Chess (for newcomers)**
- 2. Play with professional player (for people who know how to play)**
- 3. Computer Chess corner (demonstrating the latest PC software)**

**The Secretary General of the Japan Chess Association (Ms. Miyoko Watai) and three pros will be here each day.**

**Bridge**

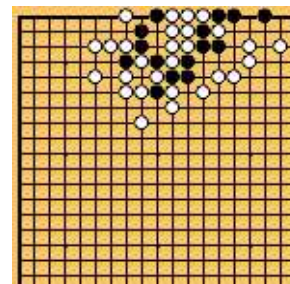
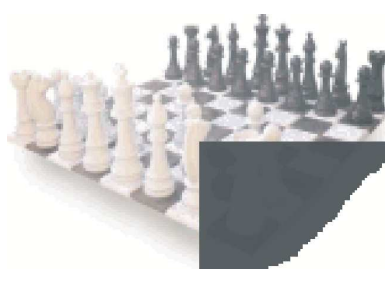
- 1. Introductory lessons (Mini Bridge)**
- 2. Enjoy Bridge corner: instructor-supervised game-style lessons**
- 3. Computer Bridge corner**
- 4. Tour - NEC Cup (instructors take newcomers to the competition rooms to show the atmosphere of high-level bridge games)**

**Go**

**Introduction of Computer software**

**The Secretary General of the International Go Federation (IGF) and IMSA Japan, Ms. Yuki Shigeno, will be present all day on the 11th and at the Closing Ceremony on the 12th.**

**Bridge players who have time are invited to accept the challenge of other mind sports and prepare for the coming Intellympiad Games!**



## The Semi-finals (Second half): Italy vs Japan-YOI

by Eric Kokish (with a little help from Rich Colker)

Japan-YOI (**Dawei Chen, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu**) began the second half of their match against Italy (**Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi**) leading by 8 IMPs at 56-48. But no lead is safe against an adversary as dangerous as this. It was 20 boards to glory, and the home team had their eyes on the target.

The first interesting deal of the second half produced a swing of only 1 IMP, but it's a real beauty...

lead of the ♠6 to the king, and the ♠2 return. He won with the queen, cashed three rounds of clubs, and exited with the ♠J. East could take two spade tricks but then had to lead a red suit for declarer to concede the ninth trick. Simple but elegant.



Dawei Chen

Madala, declaring 3NT from the North, had to work much harder. Ino led the ♠K, looking for attitude. When Imakura played a fuzzy six, Ino did well to switch to the ♦3. Imakura won the ace and returned the deuce, jack, queen, and Ino led a third diamond to knock out the king. With eight tricks in, Madala ran clubs, West discarding the ♠2 and ♠10, East two small spades, then the ♥9. When Madala played ♥K, heart, West followed deuce-ten, and East contributed the six. The moment of truth had arrived. Declarer knew everyone's distribution, and that East had not doubled 1♣ for takeout. That pointed towards taking the losing heart finesse, but Madala got it right by playing the ace to drop the queen for +630 and an IMP to Italy. Why did he do this?

Agustin: "If West had Q102 and East 986, I thought he would often play the ten first, and East would follow nine-eight or eight-nine, and might have discarded one of those cards before his last small spade. Had West followed eight-ten, leaving the possibility that East had nine-six-two, I think I would have gone wrong."



Augustin Madala

|                |               |               |                |  |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| Bd: 3          | North         |               |                |  |
| Dlr: South     | ♠ 875         |               |                |  |
| Vul: E/W       | ♥ AJ43        |               |                |  |
|                | ♦ KJ5         |               |                |  |
|                | ♣ A84         |               |                |  |
|                | West          |               | East           |  |
|                | ♠ 1063        |               | ♠ AK92         |  |
|                | ♥ 1082        |               | ♥ Q96          |  |
|                | ♦ A982        |               | ♦ Q643         |  |
|                | ♣ J72         |               | ♣ 53           |  |
|                |               | South         |                |  |
|                |               | ♠ QJ4         |                |  |
|                |               | ♥ K75         |                |  |
|                |               | ♦ 107         |                |  |
|                |               | ♣ KQ1096      |                |  |
| Open Room      |               |               |                |  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |  |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |  |
| Pass           | 1♣            | Pass          | 2♣(strong)     |  |
| Pass           | 2NT           | Pass          | 3NT            |  |
| All Pass       |               |               |                |  |
| Closed Room    |               |               |                |  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |  |
| <i>Duboin</i>  | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |  |
| Pass           | 1♥            | Pass          | 1NT            |  |
| Pass           | 3NT           | All Pass      |                |  |

Chen, playing 3NT from the South seat, got the

|   |               |               |                |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 4   | North         |               |                |
| Dir: West   | ♠ A1083       |               |                |
| Vul: Both   | ♥ KJ843       |               |                |
|   | ♦ 109         |               |                |
|   | ♣ 109         |               |                |
| West  |               | East          |                |
| ♠ J54   |               | ♠ Q2          |                |
| ♥ A5  |               | ♥ 1076        |                |
| ♦ Q32   |               | ♦ AJ54        |                |
| ♣ KQJ83   |               | ♣ 7654        |                |
| South   |               |               |                |
| ♠ K976  |               |               |                |
| ♥ Q92   |               |               |                |
| ♦ K876  |               |               |                |
| ♣ A2  |               |               |                |
| Open Room   |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i>  | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| 1♣  | 2♣(1)         | Pass          | 4♠             |
| All Pass  |               |               |                |
| (1) Hearts and spades, about 8-11, five-four either way |               |               |                |
| Closed Room   |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
| 1♣  | 1♥            | Pass          | 2♣             |
| Pass  | 2♥            | Pass          | 3♥             |
| All Pass  |               |               |                |

Ferraro needed no further encouragement once Madala showed the majors, but could have invited game with 2NT to get some distributional and strength information. With a better hand, Madala would have overcalled; with at least five-five, he would have bid 2♦ over 1NT. Ferraro proceeded directly to game. He did not pass go. He did not collect \$200. He had an unavoidable loser in each suit on the ♣K lead and did not make his contract; -100. Furuta and Chen showed infinitely more restraint and were rewarded with a plus score, +140, for a 6-IMP pickup. YOI led by 14, 63-49.



Kazuo Furuta

In the other semifinal, Israel's Michael Barel was permitted to make 4♥ after two rounds of trumps. He left a trump outstanding and continued with ♣A, club. West, uncertain of the position, shifted to a spade, pickling the defenders' trick in that suit and turning over 10 IMPs in the process.

|                |               |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 5          | North         |               |                |
| Dir: North     | ♠ 7           |               |                |
| Vul: N/S       | ♥ Q843        |               |                |
|                | ♦ A10962      |               |                |
|                | ♣ K82         |               |                |
| West           |               | East          |                |
| ♠ Q10854       |               | ♠ AK932       |                |
| ♥ 1096         |               | ♥ K75         |                |
| ♦ Q73          |               | ♦ 85          |                |
| ♣ J9           |               | ♣ 1054        |                |
| South          |               |               |                |
| ♠ J6           |               |               |                |
| ♥ AJ2          |               |               |                |
| ♦ KJ4          |               |               |                |
| ♣ AQ763        |               |               |                |
| Open Room      |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| Pass           | Pass          | Pass          | 1NT            |
| Pass           | 2♣            | Pass          | 2♦             |
| Pass           | 3♦            | Pass          | 3♥             |
| Pass           | 3♠            | Dbf           | Pass           |
| Pass           | Rdbl          | Pass          | 3NT            |
| All Pass       |               |               |                |
| Closed Room    |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>  | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
| Pass           | Pass          | Pass          | 1NT            |
| Pass           | 2♣            | Pass          | 2♦             |
| Pass           | 3♣(♦)         | Pass          | 3♦             |
| Pass           | 3NT           | All Pass      |                |

If two pairs of this stature can bid these cards to 3NT after North expresses interest in alternative strains, there's something rotten in the state of (fill in the blank). An ignoble push at N/S -100. With spade length, Madala would have bid 3NT over 3♥; he believes 3♠ suggested shortness, although not by agreement. Whatever 3♠ and redouble mean, however, Ferraro needed more than jack-low to bid 3NT.

Furuta's 3NT seems needlessly unrevealing to

us, but it may be a question of philosophy rather than system for his partnership.

In the other match, Sutherlin, North for Kastle, bid Stayman, then jumped to 3NT over the 2♦ reply. Indelicate, surely, but at least he didn't give anything away (other than the potential game swing) by taking the direct route to game after Stayman failed to locate a major-suit fit.

The only N/S pair to avoid 3NT was Barel-Campanile, via:

| West           | North        | East          | South            |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Onstott</i> | <i>Barel</i> | <i>Hayden</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                | Pass         | Pass          | 1NT              |
| Pass           | 2♣           | Pass          | 2♦               |
| Pass           | 3♦           | Pass          | 3♥               |
| Pass           | 5♦           | All Pass      |                  |

This deserved to make, and it did, Israel gaining 12 IMPs. Once Campanile did not bid 3NT, Barel realized that it no longer made sense to try to get there. They're definitely in line for the Bulletin prize for Best Bid Hand Using Natural Methods.



Migry Campanile



Michael Barel

|           |          |          |  |
|-----------|----------|----------|--|
| Bd: 6     | North    |          |  |
| Dlr: East | ♠ K1043  |          |  |
| Vul: E/W  | ♥ 8      |          |  |
|           | ♦ 975    |          |  |
|           | ♣ J10852 |          |  |
| West      |          | East     |  |
| ♠ Q92     |          | ♠ A85    |  |
| ♥ K96     |          | ♥ AQJ432 |  |
| ♦ AKQ8    |          | ♦ J64    |  |
| ♣ AK7     |          | ♣ 4      |  |
|           | South    |          |  |
|           | ♠ J76    |          |  |
|           | ♥ 1075   |          |  |
|           | ♦ 1032   |          |  |
|           | ♣ Q963   |          |  |

| Open Room                                 |               |               |                |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| West                                      | North         | East          | South          |
| <i>Imakura</i>                            | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
|   |               | 1♥            | Pass           |
| 2♦  | Pass          | 2♥            | Pass           |
| 3♥(FG)                                    | Pass          | 3♠            | Pass           |
| 4NT                                       | Pass          | 5♠            | Pass           |
| 5NT                                       | Pass          | 6♥            | All Pass       |
| Closed Room                               |               |               |                |
| West                                      | North         | East          | South          |
| <i>Duboin</i>                             | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
|   |               | 1♥            | Pass           |
| 2♣(1)                                     | Pass          | 2♦(2)         | Pass           |
| 2♥(3)                                     | Pass          | 2NT(4)        | Pass           |
| 3♣(5)                                     | Pass          | 3♦(6)         | Pass           |
| 3♥(5)                                     | Pass          | 3♠(7)         | Pass           |
| 4♣(5)                                     | Pass          | 4♠(8)         | Pass           |
| 4NT(9)                                    | Pass          | 5♠(10)        | Pass           |
| 7NT                                       | All Pass      |               |                |
| (1) ART F1; (2) Min w/o 4♠; (3) GF        |               |               |                |
| (4) 11-13 HCP; (5-8) relays and responses |               |               |                |
| (9) RKCB; (10) 2 key cards + ♥Q           |               |               |                |

This time the Italians' aggression was rewarded handsomely. Looking at the E/W hands and seeing 13 top tricks it looks easy to bid to 7NT, 7♥, or 7♦. Imakura launched into RKCB when Ino showed slam interest (or willingness) and the ♠A. But he could not see Ino's sixth heart or his ♦J, both of which were needed to bring the trick count to 13 once Ino denied any kings. So he settled for +1460. Bocchi-Duboin, had more extensive bidding methods available. Duboin's 2♣ could have been several hand types, some just invitational, but 2♥ created a game force. He then found out that Bocchi had 11-13 HCP, 3=6=3=1 distribution, and two key cards plus the ♥Q. So he could count twelve tricks (6 hearts, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs and 1 spade) opposite just the ♥AQ and ♠A, plus he knew there were three diamonds opposite his ♦AKQ8, so there had to be reasonable play for thirteen tricks (the ♦J opposite, diamonds breaking three-three, the jack falling if the ♦10 was in dummy, the singleton ♣Q, plus various squeeze possibilities involving the ♠K). So he went for the gusto and was rewarded by being able to claim when dummy appeared. Plus 2220, 13 IMPs to Italy, within 1 at 62-63.



Norberto Bocchi

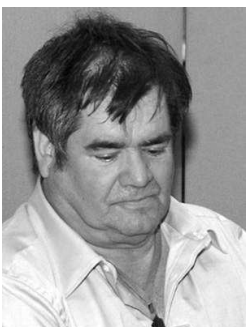


Giorgio Duboin

In the match between USA/Kasle and Israel, the same pair of results was recorded on these auctions:

| West           | North            | East          | South            |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Sutherlin</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Kasle</i>     |
|                |                  | 1♥            | Pass             |
| 2NT(♥)         | Pass             | 3♣(SPL)       | Pass             |
| 3♦             | Pass             | 3♠            | Pass             |
| 4NT            | Pass             | 5♠            | Pass             |
| 5NT            | Pass             | 6♥            | Pass             |
| 6NT            | All Pass         |               |                  |
| West           | North            | East          | South            |
| <i>Onstott</i> | <i>Barel</i>     | <i>Hayden</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |                  | 1♥            | Pass             |
| 2NT(♥)         | Pass             | 3♣(SPL)       | Pass             |
| 4NT            | Pass             | 5♠            | Pass             |
| 5NT            | Pass             | 6♥            | Pass             |
| 7♥             | All Pass         |               |                  |

Doron handled the auction well in his methods by setting hearts as trumps, focusing attention on diamonds and converting to 6NT over the no-king reply, after inviting seven via 5NT to confirm that all the key cards and the trump queen were aboard. Izzy might have converted to 7♥, but it was not easy. Although the Americans were more successful in the other room, we're not inclined to think too fondly of Onstott's 7♥ bid after getting the no-king reply to 5NT. Would John have bid eight if East held the other king?



John Onstott



Garey Hayden

|            |                    |               |               |                |
|------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 7      | North              |               |               |                |
| Dir: South | ♠ 1043             |               |               |                |
| Vul: Both  | ♥ 86               |               |               |                |
|            | ♦ 107432           |               |               |                |
|            | ♣ J95              |               |               |                |
|            | West               |               | East          |                |
|            | ♠ AQ8762           |               | ♠ J95         |                |
|            | ♥ AQ107            |               | ♥ J943        |                |
|            | ♦ J8               |               | ♦ 965         |                |
|            | ♣ Q                |               | ♣ 863         |                |
|            | South              |               |               |                |
|            | ♠ K                |               |               |                |
|            | ♥ K52              |               |               |                |
|            | ♦ AKQ              |               |               |                |
|            | ♣ AK10742          |               |               |                |
|            | Open Room          |               |               |                |
|            | West               | North         | East          | South          |
|            | <i>Imakura</i>     | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
|            |                    |               |               | 1♣             |
|            | 1♠                 | Pass          | Pass          | Dbl            |
|            | Pass               | 2♦            | Pass          | 2♠             |
|            | Pass               | 3♦            | All Pass      |                |
|            |                    | Closed Room   |               |                |
|            | West               | North         | East          | South          |
|            | <i>Duboin</i>      | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
|            |                    |               |               | 2♣             |
|            | 2♠                 | Dbl(1)        | Pass          | 3NT            |
|            | All Pass           |               |               |                |
|            | (1) 0 or 1 control |               |               |                |

Ferraro may have used his quota of testosterone in the previous session; his pass of 3♦ needing virtually nothing but some appropriate minor-suit length took partnership trust to a superhuman level. Theoretically, however, Ferraro was right about 5♦—Madala went down in 3♦ by throwing clubs from dummy on the second and third rounds of spades, only to have Ino lead a heart through the king: -100. He was not right about clubs, though, as he could make 5♣ from his side. Meanwhile, the vulnerable E/W could make 4♠, (Imakura was remarkably conservative himself), so Ferraro could dare to hope that going down in 3♦ wouldn't turn out too badly.



Guido Ferraro



Tadashi Imakura

Those hopes were dashed when Chen took a more aggressive approach with the South cards and got away with it. Duboin, expecting Chen to hold the guarded ♠K made the well-reasoned lead of the ♥A. Bocchi tried to discourage by following with the four, an even card. Duboin had no reason to change his mind about spades, and continued with the ♥Q. Chen took the rest for +690 and YOI gained 13 IMPs, 76-62.

In the other match, Kastle opened 2♣, rebid 3♣ in competition, and bid 5♣ when raised to 4♣, +600. In contrast, Campanile opened 1♣, reopened 1♠ with a double, and over West's 2♥, reopened with 3NT. She made seven on a low spade lead, taking the last trick with the ♥5 after discarding the ♥2 and ♥K on diamonds. Now *that*, dear readers, is bidding. Could it be that Campanile came across the vial of testosterone misplaced by Ferraro and Imakura?

|                  |               |             |                |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bd: 8            |               | North       |                |
| Dir: West        |               | ♠ K9        |                |
| Vul: None        |               | ♥ QJ875     |                |
|                  |               | ♦ 52        |                |
|                  |               | ♣ AK109     |                |
| West             |               | East        |                |
| ♠ A632           |               | ♠ J10754    |                |
| ♥ A43            |               | ♥ 106       |                |
| ♦ QJ98           |               | ♦ K43       |                |
| ♣ 54             |               | ♣ 732       |                |
|                  |               | South       |                |
|                  |               | ♠ Q8        |                |
|                  |               | ♥ K92       |                |
|                  |               | ♦ A1076     |                |
|                  |               | ♣ QJ86      |                |
| Open Room        |               |             |                |
| <b>West</b>      | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i>   | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>  | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| 1NT              | Dbl           | Rdbl(1)     | 2NT            |
| Pass             | 3♣            | All Pass    |                |
| (1) Puppet to 2♣ |               |             |                |

|               |               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Closed Room   |               |               |              |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>  |
| Pass          | 1♥            | Pass          | 2♠(3♥)       |
| Pass          | 3♣            | Pass          | 4♥           |
| All Pass      |               |               |              |

4♥ was easy to make. So was 3♣. What went wrong for Italy? Madala, who was aware of E/W's 10-12 notrump range in this position, doubled 1NT to show high cards. Ferraro, who was less well informed (the 10-12 is described clearly under "General Approach and Style" and "1NT opening range" on the front of Ino-Imakura's convention card and on its own two lines on the inside), though 1NT was strong, which meant that Madala's double showed a four-card major and a longer minor, competitive values. Thus, Ferraro bid 2NT to learn about Madala's minor, and was not particularly interested in game. 3♣ made four, and Italy lost 7 IMPs to YOI, who led now by 21, 83-62.

But Italy recovered from those two soft results...

|                        |               |               |                |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 9                  |               | North         |                |
| Dir: North             |               | ♠ KJ5         |                |
| Vul: E/W               |               | ♥ QJ9864      |                |
|                        |               | ♦ J           |                |
|                        |               | ♣ J96         |                |
| West                   |               | East          |                |
| ♠ A8                   |               | ♠ Q973        |                |
| ♥ 103                  |               | ♥ AK          |                |
| ♦ 97653                |               | ♦ AKQ102      |                |
| ♣ AK43                 |               | ♣ Q7          |                |
|                        |               | South         |                |
|                        |               | ♠ 10642       |                |
|                        |               | ♥ 752         |                |
|                        |               | ♦ 84          |                |
|                        |               | ♣ 10852       |                |
| Open Room              |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>            | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i>         | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| 3♦                     | 2♥            | Dbl           | Pass           |
|                        | Pass          | 3NT           | All Pass       |
| Closed Room            |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>            | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>          | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
| 3♠(1)                  | Pass          | 2NT           | Pass           |
| 4♠                     | Pass          | 4♦            | Pass           |
| 6♦                     | All Pass      | 5♥            | Pass           |
| (1) Minor-suit inquiry |               |               |                |



Madala's weak 2♥ opening created a problem for Imakura-Ino that they did not solve. Although 3♦ showed values (2NT would have been a puppet to 3♣ for weak hands and a few strong ones), most experts would consider the West hand too strong for a nonforcing bid. Ino's 3NT figured to be okay unless West had either ace-king-king or ace-king of one black suit and shortness in the other: +690.



Masayuki Ino

Furuta could have started with a Multi 2♦, but thought his suitability for spades and clubs strong factors favoring a pass. That allowed Bocchi-Duboin to coast into slam without raising a bead of sweat: +1370. Italy gained 12 IMPs and closed to within 9 at 74-83.

|                  |               |             |                |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bd: 12           | North         |             |                |
| Dlr: West        | ♠ KJ          |             |                |
| Vul: N/S         | ♥ AQ          |             |                |
|                  | ♦ KJ10764     |             |                |
|                  | ♣ K76         |             |                |
| <b>West</b>      |               | <b>East</b> |                |
| ♠ Q3             |               | ♠ 1075      |                |
| ♥ K96            |               | ♥ J108753   |                |
| ♦ Q985           |               | ♦ A2        |                |
| ♣ 10954          |               | ♣ 82        |                |
|                  | <b>South</b>  |             |                |
|                  | ♠ A98642      |             |                |
|                  | ♥ 42          |             |                |
|                  | ♦ 3           |             |                |
|                  | ♣ AQJ3        |             |                |
| <b>Open Room</b> |               |             |                |
| <b>West</b>      | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i>   | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>  | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| Pass             | 1♦            | 2♥          | 2♠             |
| 3♥               | 3NT           | All Pass    |                |

|                    |               |               |              |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Closed Room</b> |               |               |              |
| <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Duboin</i>      | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>  |
| Pass               | 1NT           | Pass          | 2♥(♠)        |
| Pass               | 2♠            | Pass          | 3♦(♣)        |
| Pass               | 3NT           | Pass          | 4♠           |
| Pass               | 4NT           | Pass          | 5♥           |
| Pass               | 5♠            | All Pass      |              |

3NT made six on a heart lead, club to dummy, spade finesse; +690. 5♠, a bit scary, made five, +650. That was 1 IMP to Italy, 75-85, but a bullet dodged by Furuta-Chen.

|                    |               |               |                |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 13             | North         |               |                |
| Dlr: North         | ♠ Q87         |               |                |
| Vul: Both          | ♥ KQ          |               |                |
|                    | ♦ Q9765       |               |                |
|                    | ♣ J42         |               |                |
| <b>West</b>        |               | <b>East</b>   |                |
| ♠ 105432           |               | ♠ K9          |                |
| ♥ AJ7              |               | ♥ 8643        |                |
| ♦ AK               |               | ♦ J10842      |                |
| ♣ A76              |               | ♣ K9          |                |
|                    | <b>South</b>  |               |                |
|                    | ♠ AJ6         |               |                |
|                    | ♥ 10952       |               |                |
|                    | ♦ 3           |               |                |
|                    | ♣ Q10853      |               |                |
| <b>Open Room</b>   |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i>     | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
|                    | Pass          | Pass          | Pass           |
| 1♠                 | Pass          | 1NT           | Pass           |
| 2NT                | Pass          | 3NT           | All Pass       |
| <b>Closed Room</b> |               |               |                |
| <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>      | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
|                    | Pass          | Pass          | Pass           |
| 1♠                 | Pass          | 1NT           | Pass           |
| 2♣                 | Pass          | 2♠            | All Pass       |

Imakura's 2NT, an unspeakable overbid, got what it deserved when Ino went down four, -400, on a club lead. In 2♠, Duboin ducked the lead of the ♥K, took the heart continuation, ruffed a club in dummy, and played the ♠K. He

lost four trump tricks, but made his contract, +110. Italy gained 11 IMPs from out of the blue, and reclaimed the lead, 86-85.

But then it went bad for Italy. Really bad.

|                |               |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 14         | North         |               |                |
| Dlr: East      | ♠ AK10754     |               |                |
| Vul: None      | ♥ 97          |               |                |
|                | ♦ 54          |               |                |
|                | ♣ AJ6         |               |                |
|                |               | West          | East           |
|                |               | ♠ 96          | ♠ QJ82         |
|                |               | ♥ KQJ106      | ♥ A2           |
|                |               | ♦ J           | ♦ A986         |
|                |               | ♣ KQ984       | ♣ 732          |
|                |               |               | South          |
|                |               |               | ♠ 3            |
|                |               |               | ♥ 8543         |
|                |               |               | ♦ KQ10732      |
|                |               |               | ♣ 105          |
|                |               | Open Room     |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
|                |               | 1NT           | Pass           |
| 4♥             | 4♠            | Dbl           | 5♦             |
| Pass           | Pass          | Dbl           | All Pass       |
|                |               | Closed Room   |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>  | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
|                |               | 1NT           | 3♣(♦)          |
| 3♦(♥)          | Pass          | 3♠            | Pass           |
| 4♥             | All Pass      |               |                |

In 4♥, Duboin lost two spades and two clubs, for -50. Imakura's wild 4♥ bid facing a 10-12 notrump caught a big fish when Madala stepped in with 4♠, as who would not, and collided with a rare opening hand that could double for penalty. Ferraro's escape to 5♦ was treated equally harshly—down 800—and YOI gained 13 IMPs to lead 98-86 with six deals left to play.



"Bid that way again and I'll sock you."

|                |               |               |                                       |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bd: 15         | North         |               |                                       |
| Dlr: South     | ♠ A93         |               |                                       |
| Vul: N/S       | ♥ KQJ82       |               |                                       |
|                | ♦ 5           |               |                                       |
|                | ♣ AQ104       |               |                                       |
|                |               | West          | East                                  |
|                |               | ♠ 8752        | ♠ 6                                   |
|                |               | ♥ 1095        | ♥ A764                                |
|                |               | ♦ A86         | ♦ Q10732                              |
|                |               | ♣ 732         | ♣ KJ8                                 |
|                |               |               | South                                 |
|                |               |               | ♠ KQJ104                              |
|                |               |               | ♥ 3                                   |
|                |               |               | ♦ KJ94                                |
|                |               |               | ♣ 965                                 |
|                |               | Open Room     |                                       |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>                          |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i>                        |
|                |               |               | Pass                                  |
| Pass           | 1♥            | Pass          | 1♠                                    |
| Pass           | 2♣            | Pass          | 2♦                                    |
| Pass           | 2♠            | Pass          | 2NT                                   |
| Pass           | 3♣            | Pass          | 3♠                                    |
| Pass           | 4♠            | All Pass      |                                       |
|                |               | Closed Room   |                                       |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>                          |
| <i>Duboin</i>  | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>                           |
|                |               |               | 2♦(1)                                 |
| Pass           | 2NT(2)        | Pass          | 3♣(3)                                 |
| Pass           | 3♦(4)         | Pass          | 3♥(5)                                 |
| Pass           | 4♠            | All Pass      |                                       |
|                |               |               | (1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠                |
|                |               |               | (2) Inquiry                           |
|                |               |               | (3) Only five-cards in the long major |
|                |               |               | (4) Which suit?                       |
|                |               |               | (5) Spades                            |

The auction came up really well for Furuta-Chen, who got to play 4♠ from the strong side. Bocchi's low diamond lead went to the jack and ace, and Furuta put in the queen on Duboin's switch to the ♣7. Bocchi exited with a trump, but Furuta won in dummy, ruffed a diamond with the ♠A, and drew trumps, losing only to the ♥A after that for +620.

Unfortunately for Madala-Ferraro, their auction

suggested that a club lead would be best, and Imakura duly led the ♣2 to the queen and king. Ino switched to a diamond to the king and ace, and a second club ended declarer's chances: he finessed, losing to the jack, and Ino cashed the ♥A before leading a third club. Ferraro won, played king-queen of trumps, intending to end in dummy after a third round and claim, but could have ruffed diamonds instead, and could have avoided a second undertrick easily enough: -200, and 13 IMPs to YOI, ahead 111-86.

25 IMPs, down with five boards left, Italy needed some opportunities, but the next three deals were flat games. With two deals left, a Monte Carlo-style miracle was required.

|                |               |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 19         | North         |               |                |
| Dlr: South     | ♠ 105         |               |                |
| Vul: E/W       | ♥ K1053       |               |                |
|                | ♦ 642         |               |                |
|                | ♣ KQ62        |               |                |
|                |               | West          | East           |
|                |               | ♠ J42         | ♠ 876          |
|                |               | ♥ J986        | ♥ Q742         |
|                |               | ♦ KQ109       | ♦ AJ83         |
|                |               | ♣ AJ          | ♣ 103          |
|                |               |               | South          |
|                |               |               | ♠ AKQ93        |
|                |               |               | ♥ A            |
|                |               |               | ♦ 75           |
|                |               |               | ♣ 98754        |
|                |               | Open Room     |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| Pass           | 1♥            | Pass          | 1♣             |
| Pass           | 2♣            | Pass          | 1♠             |
| Pass           | 3♣            | All Pass      | 2♠             |
|                |               |               |                |
|                |               | Closed Room   |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>  | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
| Pass           | 1NT           | Pass          | 1♠             |
| Pass           | 2♠            | Pass          | 2♣             |
| Pass           | 4♣            | Pass          | 3♣             |
| All Pass       |               |               | 4♠             |

4♠ needed more than a little luck in the blacks, but yielded +420. 3♣ was cold for four, +130. YOI gained another 7 IMPs to salt away the match,

118-87.

|                |               |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bd: 20         | North         |               |                |
| Dlr: West      | ♠ A10963      |               |                |
| Vul: Both      | ♥ 87          |               |                |
|                | ♦ 10654       |               |                |
|                | ♣ 72          |               |                |
|                |               | West          | East           |
|                |               | ♠ 54          | ♠ QJ2          |
|                |               | ♥ Q5          | ♥ J1094        |
|                |               | ♦ KQ9872      | ♦ AJ3          |
|                |               | ♣ AK3         | ♣ J85          |
|                |               |               | South          |
|                |               |               | ♠ K87          |
|                |               |               | ♥ AK632        |
|                |               |               | ♦ ---          |
|                |               |               | ♣ Q10964       |
|                |               | Open Room     |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Ferraro</i> |
| 1♦             | Pass          | 1♥            | Pass           |
| 2♦             | Pass          | 2NT           | Pass           |
| 3NT            | All Pass      |               |                |
|                |               | Closed Room   |                |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Duboin</i>  | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Chen</i>    |
| 1♦             | Pass          | 1♥            | 2♣             |
| 2♦             | Pass          | 3♦            | Pass           |
| 3NT            | All Pass      |               |                |

In 3NT from the East side, Ino ran the lead of the ♣10 to his jack and chalked up an easy +600. Meanwhile, Chen's 2♣ overcall payed a spectacular dividend when Furuta could lead through the ♣J at trick one. Duboin took the nine with his ace and led a low heart to the jack and ace. Chen switched to the ♠8 to get a club return and everything turned out swimmingly when Furuta won the ace and had a second club to lead. One down, -100, and another 12 IMPs to YOI, who won the second half 74-39, and the match, 130-87. YOI had enjoyed plenty of good luck, but had also made fewer errors and played with confidence and enterprise.

Meanwhile, Israel won the second half against USA/Kasle 62-48, and won the match 103-77 to reach the final for a third successive year with the same four-person team, an NEC record if memory serves us well.

# The 2006 NEC Cup Final: Israel vs Japan-YOI

by Eric Kokish

For the third year running, the foursome of **Michael Barel-Migry Campanile, Doron and Israel "Izzy" Yadlin** of Israel had reached the final of the NEC Cup, something that has not been done before in this event. Their opponents in this year's final would be Japan-YOI (**Dawei Chen-Kazuo Furuta, Yasuhiro Shimizu-Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura**), all star players in Japan with a history of success in the NEC Cup and in international competition, and all players who have been involved with **Kenji Miyakuni's** "Slam Dunk" project, an initiative that has significantly raised the level of expert play in Japan very quickly.

interesting problem for Imakura, who could have been making 4♠ easily. He did the right thing by electing to defend 4♥, but taking that position should have convinced him to double, as 4♠ had to be cheap if 4♥ were making, and if 4♥ were going down, doubling the vulnerable opponents might turn a fair score into a big one. He led a spade, and Campanile lost two trumps, a diamond, and a club for one down, -100.

Nakamura did not bid with the North cards, so Shimizu could do no more than he did on his own, and Doron jumped to 4♠ in case he could make it, which he couldn't. Shimizu took the ♥K with the ace and switched to a low club, Nakamura being gracious enough to hold the ♣10. Doron won in dummy and passed the ♦K, discarding a club. He had to lose a second heart later for two down, -100, and YOI gained 5 IMPs, 5-0.

## First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

|                |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bd: 2          |                 | North         |                  |
| Dir: East      |                 | ♠ A96         |                  |
| Vul: N/S       |                 | ♥ 7           |                  |
|                |                 | ♦ AJ10954     |                  |
|                |                 | ♣ 1032        |                  |
| West           |                 | East          |                  |
| ♠ KQ10842      |                 | ♠ J53         |                  |
| ♥ J1096        |                 | ♥ K           |                  |
| ♦ ---          |                 | ♦ KQ762       |                  |
| ♣ 876          |                 | ♣ KQ94        |                  |
|                |                 | South         |                  |
|                |                 | ♠ 7           |                  |
|                |                 | ♥ AQ85432     |                  |
|                |                 | ♦ 83          |                  |
|                |                 | ♣ AJ5         |                  |
| Open Room      |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |                 | 1♦            | 1♥               |
| 1♠             | 1NT             | 2♠            | 4♥               |
| All Pass       |                 |               |                  |
| Closed Room    |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
|                |                 | 1♦            | 1♥               |
| 1♠             | Pass            | 2♥            | 3♥               |
| 4♠             | All Pass        |               |                  |

|                |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bd: 4          |                 | North         |                  |
| Dir: West      |                 | ♠ 6           |                  |
| Vul: Both      |                 | ♥ 8           |                  |
|                |                 | ♦ Q9863       |                  |
|                |                 | ♣ QJ10742     |                  |
| West           |                 | East          |                  |
| ♠ KQ982        |                 | ♠ A10743      |                  |
| ♥ AQ1075       |                 | ♥ J642        |                  |
| ♦ K            |                 | ♦ 54          |                  |
| ♣ A8           |                 | ♣ 65          |                  |
|                |                 | South         |                  |
|                |                 | ♠ J5          |                  |
|                |                 | ♥ K93         |                  |
|                |                 | ♦ AJ1072      |                  |
|                |                 | ♣ K93         |                  |
| Open Room      |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
| 1♠             | 2NT             | 3♠            | 5♦               |
| Dbl All Pass   |                 |               |                  |
| Closed Room    |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
| 1♠             | Pass            | 2♠            | Pass             |
| 4♠             | All Pass        |               |                  |

Barel's 1NT got his side to 4♥, setting an

If it's your day, you overcall 1♠ with 2NT, as Barel did, and have your partner jump to the five level with a hand sufficiently suitable to preclude a large loss. Michael Barel, this is your day. Ino overtook the ♠K with the ace to switch to a heart to the king and ace. Campanile ruffed the low-heart continuation in dummy and called for the ♦Q, gave her play a few seconds when East followed low, and played the ♦A for a wonderful -200.

If you're less blessed than Barel, you overcall 1♠ with 3♣ or pass, as Nakamura did. It didn't get any easier for him at his second turn, and he went quietly, conceding 710 on the lead of the ♣Q when Doron snuck a diamond past the ace. Israel gained 11 IMPs, 11-6.

|                |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bd: 7          | North           |               |                  |
| Dlr: South     | ♠ Q42           |               |                  |
| Vul: Both      | ♥ AKJ43         |               |                  |
|                | ♦ AQ8           |               |                  |
|                | ♣ 104           |               |                  |
|                | West            |               | East             |
|                | ♠ K53           |               | ♠ A87            |
|                | ♥ 10952         |               | ♥ Q6             |
|                | ♦ 96            |               | ♦ 1074           |
|                | ♣ A972          |               | ♣ KQ865          |
|                |                 | South         |                  |
|                |                 | ♠ J1096       |                  |
|                |                 | ♥ 87          |                  |
|                |                 | ♦ KJ532       |                  |
|                |                 | ♣ J3          |                  |
|                | Open Room       |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
| Pass           | 1NT             | All Pass      | Pass             |
|                | Closed Room     |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
| Pass           | 1♥              | Pass          | 1♠               |
| Pass           | 2♦              | Pass          | 3♦               |
| Pass           | 3♥              | Pass          | 4♥               |
| All Pass       |                 |               |                  |

Sometimes, when you don't open 1NT with a

balanced 16-count, you find yourself scrambling to sort out your strength later. Consider the fate of Nakamura on Board 7, where he depicted a strong six-four rather than a medium 5-3-3-2 hand. 4♥ went down 300, which seems only just. Barel, in 1NT, was treated to five rounds of clubs and ♠AK for one down, -100. 5 IMPs to Israel, 16-5.

|  |                 |               |                  |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bd: 8                                      | North           |               |                  |
| Dlr: West                                  | ♠ J109862       |               |                  |
| Vul: None                                  | ♥ 96            |               |                  |
|  | ♦ A             |               |                  |
|  | ♣ J852          |               |                  |
|  | West            |               | East             |
|  | ♠ A43           |               | ♠ Q5             |
|  | ♥ QJ10853       |               | ♥ K72            |
|  | ♦ 72            |               | ♦ KQ1095         |
|  | ♣ Q3            |               | ♣ A97            |
|  |                 | South         |                  |
|  |                 | ♠ K7          |                  |
|  |                 | ♥ A4          |                  |
|  |                 | ♦ J8643       |                  |
|  |                 | ♣ K1064       |                  |
|  | Open Room       |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>                                | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i>                             | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
| 2♦(1)                                      | Pass            | 2♠(2)         | Pass             |
| 3♦(3)                                      | 3♠              | 4♥            | 4♠               |
| Pass                                       | Pass            | Dbl           | All Pass         |
| (1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠                     |                 |               |                  |
| (2) Pass with spades, describe with hearts |                 |               |                  |
| (3) Maximum weak 2♥                        |                 |               |                  |
|  | Closed Room     |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>                                | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>                               | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
| 2♦(1)                                      | Pass            | 2♥(2)         | Pass             |
| Pass                                       | 2♠              | 3♦            | All Pass         |
| (1) Weak 2M or 20-22 balanced              |                 |               |                  |
| (2) Pass or correct                        |                 |               |                  |

The Yadlins were probably not on the same page here. Doron, playing 3♦ from the short side, got a spade lead through the queen and got out for one down, -50. As the same result might have ensued in 4♥, perhaps that wouldn't be so bad. We're not going to find out, however, as Campanile competed to 4♠ over Imakura-

Ino's 4♥ at the other table. Barel got out for one down on the lead of the ♦K by leading a spade to the seven and ace. He discarded a heart on the diamond continuation, and when Ino did not underlead the ♣A upon winning the ♦Q, Barel had time to draw trumps and lose two clubs for one down, -100. That was 4 IMPs to YOI, 9-16.

+600. 12 IMPs to Israel, ahead 28-9.

|                       |                 |               |                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bd: 9                 | North           |               |                  |
| Dir: North            | ♠ ---           |               |                  |
| Vul: E/W              | ♥ AJ832         |               |                  |
|                       | ♦ Q7654         |               |                  |
|                       | ♣ J107          |               |                  |
|                       | West            | East          |                  |
|                       | ♠ 7             | ♠ AKQ106      |                  |
|                       | ♥ 109654        | ♥ KQ7         |                  |
|                       | ♦ AK832         | ♦ J10         |                  |
|                       | ♣ Q2            | ♣ K93         |                  |
|                       | South           |               |                  |
|                       | ♠ J985432       |               |                  |
|                       | ♥ ---           |               |                  |
|                       | ♦ 9             |               |                  |
|                       | ♣ A8654         |               |                  |
| Open Room             |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>           | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i>        | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
| 3♦                    | 2♥(1)           | Dbl           | 4♦               |
| (1) 5+♥/5+m, 5-10 HCP | Pass            | 3NT           | All Pass         |
| Closed Room           |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>           | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>          | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
| 1NT                   | Pass            | 1♠            | Pass             |
| 3NT                   | 2♥              | 2NT           | Pass             |
|                       | All Pass        |               |                  |

|                |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bd: 11         | North           |               |                  |
| Dir: South     | ♠ 74            |               |                  |
| Vul: None      | ♥ 94            |               |                  |
|                | ♦ KQ10942       |               |                  |
|                | ♣ A103          |               |                  |
|                | West            | East          |                  |
|                | ♠ K108          | ♠ AQJ9        |                  |
|                | ♥ AK10          | ♥ J832        |                  |
|                | ♦ J6            | ♦ 5           |                  |
|                | ♣ K9854         | ♣ QJ76        |                  |
|                | South           |               |                  |
|                | ♠ 6532          |               |                  |
|                | ♥ Q765          |               |                  |
|                | ♦ A873          |               |                  |
|                | ♣ 2             |               |                  |
| Open Room      |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
| 1♣             | 2♦              | Dbl*          | 4♦               |
| Pass           | Pass            | Dbl           | All Pass         |
| Closed Room    |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
| 1♣             | 1♦              | Dbl           | 2NT(♦)           |
| Pass           | 3♦              | 4♣            | All Pass         |

With 5♣ easy to make, missing game didn't seem like a great result for the Yadlins, but their +150 combined nicely with their teammates' -100 in 4♦ doubled for a 2-IMP gain. Before we move on, ask yourself who should have done anything directly with the East and West cards in both rooms. Israel gained 2 IMPs on this subtly difficult deal, 30-9.

Against Ino's 3NT, Campanile attacked with the ♣5, fourth best. Under Ino's queen, Barel did not play the jack, following instead with the seven, odd cards suggesting an odd number. As soon as he played that card, however, he regretted it, as the potential to block the suit or convince partner not to continue from king-fifth was simply too great. However, when Ino called for the ♥10, he rose with the ace to return the ♣J, and Ino did not cover to block the suit, and that was that. Clubs ran after all for one down, declarer losing four clubs and the ♥A, -100.

|            |            |           |  |
|------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Bd: 13     | North      |           |  |
| Dir: North | ♠ AQJ8     |           |  |
| Vul: Both  | ♥ J92      |           |  |
|            | ♦ 9        |           |  |
|            | ♣ AQ762    |           |  |
|            | West       | East      |  |
|            | ♠ 96       | ♠ 103     |  |
|            | ♥ K8       | ♥ AQ1043  |  |
|            | ♦ QJ       | ♦ K108765 |  |
|            | ♣ KJ109854 | ♣ ---     |  |
|            | South      |           |  |
|            | ♠ K7542    |           |  |
|            | ♥ 765      |           |  |
|            | ♦ A432     |           |  |
|            | ♣ 3        |           |  |

Against Doron's 3NT, Nakamura, whose 2♥ overall was simply natural, attacked with the ♦5. Doron won with the jack and led the ♥K to North's ace. The ♣J ran to the queen, and Doron passed the ♥10 to secure his ninth trick,

| Open Room      |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| West           | North           | East          | South            |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                | 1♣              | 2NT           | Pass             |
| 3♥             | All Pass        |               |                  |
| Closed Room    |                 |               |                  |
| West           | North           | East          | South            |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
|                | 1♣              | 1♥            | 1♠               |
| Pass           | 3♥(♠)           | 4♦            | 4♠               |
| All Pass       |                 |               |                  |

| Closed Room  |                 |               |                |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| West         | North           | East          | South          |
| <i>Doron</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
|              |                 | 1♠            | 2♣             |
| 2♦           | Pass            | 2♠            | Pass           |
| 3♦           | All Pass        |               |                |

Both contracts made in comfort, I really like Barel's action, but must confess that I could not have resisted bidding 4♥ with Campanile's hand, which says something about my judgment. 6 IMPs to Israel, 36-10.

The fact that Doron led the ♦Q against Shimizu's 4♠ suggests that Nakamura's 3♥ did not describe his red-suit lengths. Shimizu won with the ♦A and led a club to the ace. Izzy ruffed and cashed the ♥A, under which Doron played the king. That allowed Izzy to continue with the ♥Q and a heart for Doron to ruff, but Shimizu had the rest for one down, -50.

Imakura, with attractive red-suit holdings but inadequate length for a jump, went for the money by responding in hearts to the red-suit 2NT. Barel led his diamond to the ace, ruffed the ♦4 on the way back, and played ♠A, ♠8 to the king for a third diamond. Imakura ruffed high, and played trumps from the top, and claimed three when the jack fell, +140. 1 IMP to YOI, 10-30.

| Bd: 15         | North           |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Dlr: South     | ♠ AJ10          |               |                  |
| Vul: N/S       | ♥ 6             |               |                  |
|                | ♦ A1052         |               |                  |
|                | ♣ A7632         |               |                  |
|                | West            |               | East             |
|                | ♠ KQ6           |               | ♠ 9432           |
|                | ♥ 109754        |               | ♥ Q83            |
|                | ♦ KJ64          |               | ♦ Q3             |
|                | ♣ 10            |               | ♣ KQJ8           |
|                | South           |               |                  |
|                | ♠ 875           |               |                  |
|                | ♥ AKJ2          |               |                  |
|                | ♦ 987           |               |                  |
|                | ♣ 954           |               |                  |
| Open Room      |                 |               |                  |
| West           | North           | East          | South            |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |                 |               | Pass             |
| Pass           | 1♦              | Pass          | 1♥               |
| Pass           | 2♣              | Pass          | 2♦               |
| All Pass       |                 |               |                  |
| Closed Room    |                 |               |                  |
| West           | North           | East          | South            |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
|                |                 |               | Pass             |
| Pass           | 1♣              | Pass          | 1♥               |
| Pass           | 1NT             | All Pass      |                  |

The two depicted auctions would be supported about equally in the world bridge community. The Nakamura approach worked well, as he made three on a club lead, ducked, and a club continuation, +150. The Barel approach worked less well. Ino led a spade to the queen and ace,

| Bd: 14                          | North        |            |                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| Dlr: East                       | ♠ Q75        |            |                  |
| Vul: None                       | ♥ J10765     |            |                  |
|                                 | ♦ 963        |            |                  |
|                                 | ♣ A8         |            |                  |
|                                 | West         |            | East             |
|                                 | ♠ 8          |            | ♠ AKJ962         |
|                                 | ♥ 842        |            | ♥ K              |
|                                 | ♦ AKQ1052    |            | ♦ 874            |
|                                 | ♣ 972        |            | ♣ J53            |
|                                 | South        |            |                  |
|                                 | ♠ 1043       |            |                  |
|                                 | ♥ AQ93       |            |                  |
|                                 | ♦ J          |            |                  |
|                                 | ♣ KQ1064     |            |                  |
| Open Room                       |              |            |                  |
| West                            | North        | East       | South            |
| <i>Imakura</i>                  | <i>Barel</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                                 |              | 1♠         | 2♣               |
| 2♦                              | Dbt*         | 2♠         | 3♥               |
| All Pass                        |              |            |                  |
| (1) Hearts, with club tolerance |              |            |                  |

and Barel exited with the ♠10 to Imakura's king. The ♣10 went to the ace and Barel cashed the ♠J before exiting with a club to Ino's jack. Ino cashed a third club and led the fourth club, Barel ruffing with dummy's seven and Imakura overruffed with...the ♦K(!), then got out with another diamond. Barel ducked this to Ino's queen and Ino led his last spade as Barel ruffed. Expecting Ino to show up with the ♦J Barel cashed the ♦A, then the ♥AK, and lost trick 13 to the ♦J as he underrated with his ♦10. Thanks to Imakura's inspired deception Barel lost a spade, two clubs, and three trumps for one down, -100. YOI gained 6 IMPs to make it 16-36 with one deal to play in the session.

|           |        |         |  |
|-----------|--------|---------|--|
| Bd: 16    | North  |         |  |
| Dir: West | ♠ KQ8  |         |  |
| Vul: E/W  | ♥ K976 |         |  |
|           | ♦ KQ8  |         |  |
|           | ♣ 643  |         |  |
| West      |        | East    |  |
| ♠ A10953  |        | ♠ J2    |  |
| ♥ 105     |        | ♥ AQ842 |  |
| ♦ 962     |        | ♦ A74   |  |

|                |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| ♣ AJ2          |                 | ♣ K108        |                  |
|                | South           |               |                  |
|                | ♠ 764           |               |                  |
|                | ♥ J3            |               |                  |
|                | ♦ J1053         |               |                  |
|                | ♣ Q975          |               |                  |
| Open Room      |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Imakura</i> | <i>Barel</i>    | <i>Ino</i>    | <i>Campanile</i> |
| Pass           | 1♣              | 1♥            | 2♣               |
| All Pass       |                 |               |                  |
| Closed Room    |                 |               |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Shimizu</i>   |
| Pass           | 1♣              | 1♥            | 2♣               |
| Dbl            | Pass            | 2♦            | Pass             |
| 2♥             | All Pass        |               |                  |

2♣, an ugly little contract, went two down, -100, and 2♥ made two, +110. No swing. Israel won the first quarter by 20 IMPs, 36-16, a good start to defending its 2005 NEC Cup title.

## Images of Our Game



"These are only two of my vices"



"You can't be serious!"



"See anything you like?"



"Don't make me come over there..."



"I'm just here to keep order."



"Look, fool, it's right there in black and white!"



# The Final: Israel vs Japan-YOI

by Eric Kokish & Rich Colker

Israel began the second quarter with a 20-IMP lead, 36-16. The action began immediately.

## Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

|                         |               |                 |                  |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 17                  | North         |                 |                  |
| Dlr: North              | ♠ 1065        |                 |                  |
| Vul: None               | ♥ K1072       |                 |                  |
|                         | ♦ J7          |                 |                  |
|                         | ♣ K1076       |                 |                  |
| West                    |               | East            |                  |
| ♠ 974                   |               | ♠ AQJ83         |                  |
| ♥ J64                   |               | ♥ A98           |                  |
| ♦ AKQ                   |               | ♦ 1093          |                  |
| ♣ AJ54                  |               | ♣ 83            |                  |
|                         | South         |                 |                  |
|                         | ♠ K2          |                 |                  |
|                         | ♥ Q53         |                 |                  |
|                         | ♦ 86542       |                 |                  |
|                         | ♣ Q92         |                 |                  |
| Open Room               |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>             | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i>          | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                         | Pass          | 1♠              | Pass             |
| 3♦(1)                   | Pass          | 3♠              | Pass             |
| 4♠                      | All Pass      |                 |                  |
| (1) 3-card limit raise+ |               |                 |                  |
| Closed Room             |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>             | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>            | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                         | Pass          | 1♠              | Pass             |
| 1NT                     | Pass          | 2♦              | Pass             |
| 4♠                      | All Pass      |                 |                  |

Against Nakamura's 4♠ contract, Migry "Meatballs" Campanile, goddess of the pasteboards, led the second-highest-from-a-bad-suit ♦6. Declarer won, took the losing trump finesse (Michael playing his lowest spot to suggest a club shift), and Migry, true to her nature, shifted to...the ♥3, four, ten, ace. Nakamura ran his trumps, cashed his two remaining diamonds, and played the ♥J to Migry's queen. Migry switched to a low club to the jack and king, and Michael cashed his ♥K and returned a club for one down, -50. Dawei

Chen led the ♣2 against Israel Yadlin's 4♠, and when Izzy called for a low card from dummy Kazuo Furuta couldn't bring himself to go in with the ten and won the king. Now declarer could lead a club to the jack for a heart discard and +420; 10 IMPs to Israel, 46-16.

But the empire struck back two boards later...

|                |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 19         | North         |                 |                  |
| Dlr: South     | ♠ 6           |                 |                  |
| Vul: E/W       | ♥ AQJ92       |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ K86         |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ KJ53        |                 |                  |
| West           |               | East            |                  |
| ♠ J10          |               | ♠ KQ87542       |                  |
| ♥ 1053         |               | ♥ ---           |                  |
| ♦ AQ943        |               | ♦ 102           |                  |
| ♣ AQ4          |               | ♣ 10872         |                  |
|                | South         |                 |                  |
|                | ♠ A93         |                 |                  |
|                | ♥ K8764       |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ J75         |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ 96          |                 |                  |
| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |               |                 | Pass             |
| 1♦             | 1♥            | 1♠              | 4♥               |
| Pass           | Pass          | 4♠              | All Pass         |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                |               |                 | Pass             |
| 1♦             | 1♥            | 1♠              | 2♠(♥)            |
| Pass           | 4♥            | All Pass        |                  |

There's a rumor (that we don't believe) circulating around here that when the 4♥ bid came around to Nakamura he said in a voice loud enough to be heard on the other side of the screen, "You do play 4♥ is a transfer to 4♠, don't you partner?"—and then bid 4♠. Believe it if you wish, but 4♠ looks like a reasonable action to us, regardless. Nakamura ruffed the heart lead,

played a trump to the jack, holding, and a second trump to the ace. Campanile switched to a club, ducked to the jack, and Barel got out with a second heart. Nakamura drew the last trump, tabled the  $\diamond 10$ , and let it ride. When it lost to the king, the diamonds provided enough pitches to shake his remaining club losers; +620.

Dawei Chen's  $2\spadesuit$  bid created a different impression for the Yadlins than Campanile's preemptive  $4\heartsuit$  did for Shimizu/Nakamura, and Izzy was unwilling to volunteer  $4\spadesuit$  over  $4\heartsuit$  on his right. Furuta took the  $\spadesuit K$  lead with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds ending in dummy, and led a club. Doron rose with the ace and tried the  $\spadesuit 10$ , but Kazuo ruffed, cashed the  $\clubsuit K$ , and ruffed out the queen for a neat +450. A cool 14 IMPs to YOI, trailing now by 16, 30-46.

|                      |                |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bd: 20               |                | North                |                                 |
| Dir: West            |                | $\spadesuit$ J108643 |                                 |
| Vul: Both            |                | $\heartsuit$ Q54     |                                 |
|                      |                | $\diamond$ AQ6       |                                 |
|                      |                | $\clubsuit$ 8        |                                 |
| West                 |                | East                 |                                 |
| $\spadesuit$ Q5      |                | $\spadesuit$ A7      |                                 |
| $\heartsuit$ AK97632 |                | $\heartsuit$ 108     |                                 |
| $\diamond$ J5        |                | $\diamond$ 108743    |                                 |
| $\clubsuit$ Q10      |                | $\clubsuit$ KJ73     |                                 |
|                      |                | South                |                                 |
|                      |                | $\spadesuit$ K92     |                                 |
|                      |                | $\heartsuit$ J       |                                 |
|                      |                | $\diamond$ K92       |                                 |
|                      |                | $\clubsuit$ A96542   |                                 |
| Open Room            |                |                      |                                 |
| <b>West</b>          | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>          | <b>South</b>                    |
| <i>Shimizu</i>       | <i>Barel</i>   | <i>Nakamura</i>      | <i>Campanile</i>                |
| 1 $\heartsuit$       | 1 $\spadesuit$ | Dbl*                 | 2 $\heartsuit$ ( $\spadesuit$ ) |
| 3 $\heartsuit$       | 3 $\spadesuit$ | 4 $\heartsuit$       | 4 $\spadesuit$                  |
| Pass                 | Pass           | Dbl                  | All Pass                        |
| Closed Room          |                |                      |                                 |
| <b>West</b>          | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>          | <b>South</b>                    |
| <i>Doron</i>         | <i>Furuta</i>  | <i>Israel</i>        | <i>Chen</i>                     |
| 1 $\heartsuit$       | 1 $\spadesuit$ | Dbl*                 | 4 $\spadesuit$                  |
| All Pass             |                |                      |                                 |

Remarkably, the same pair of approaches to game were adopted on this deal, but this time it was the Israelis who showed strength while the

the YOI dudes took the potentially weaker direct route. And again, showing strength yielded the better result, though in less dramatic fashion, when Nakamura doubled  $4\spadesuit$  unsuccessfully on general principles while Izzy did not. On a heart lead and diamond switch, declarer arranged two heart ruffs in dummy and exited with the  $\spadesuit K$ , losing only two trump tricks. That was +790 for Barel, +620 for Furuta; 5 IMPs to Israel, 51-30.

|  |                  |                      |                  |
|--|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Bd: 21   |                  | North                |                  |
| Dir: North                                     |                  | $\spadesuit$ J109    |                  |
| Vul: N/S                                       |                  | $\heartsuit$ AK96543 |                  |
|  |                  | $\diamond$ 43        |                  |
|  |                  | $\clubsuit$ 8        |                  |
| West   |                  | East                 |                  |
| $\spadesuit$ 87                                |                  | $\spadesuit$ AK65    |                  |
| $\heartsuit$ Q7                                |                  | $\heartsuit$ 82      |                  |
| $\diamond$ K95                                 |                  | $\diamond$ Q1086     |                  |
| $\clubsuit$ K107543                            |                  | $\clubsuit$ AQ2      |                  |
|  |                  | South                |                  |
|  |                  | $\spadesuit$ Q432    |                  |
|  |                  | $\heartsuit$ J10     |                  |
|  |                  | $\diamond$ AJ72      |                  |
|  |                  | $\clubsuit$ J96      |                  |
| Open Room                                      |                  |                      |                  |
| <b>West</b>                                    | <b>North</b>     | <b>East</b>          | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i>                                 | <i>Barel</i>     | <i>Nakamura</i>      | <i>Campanile</i> |
|  | 3 $\heartsuit$   | Dbl                  | Pass             |
| 4 $\clubsuit$                                  | All Pass         |                      |                  |
| Closed Room                                    |                  |                      |                  |
| <b>West</b>                                    | <b>North</b>     | <b>East</b>          | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>                                   | <i>Furuta</i>    | <i>Israel</i>        | <i>Chen</i>      |
|  | 2 $\diamond$ (1) | Dbl                  | Pass(2)          |
| Pass   | 2 $\heartsuit$   | Pass                 | Pass             |
| 3 $\clubsuit$                                  | All Pass         |                      |                  |
| (1) Weak 2 $\heartsuit$ or weak 2 $\spadesuit$ |                  |                      |                  |
| (2) Bid your major                             |                  |                      |                  |

Shimizu judged well to bid only  $4\clubsuit$ . He guessed the location of the  $\diamond J$  correctly for +130. Doron, in  $3\clubsuit$ , was not in any danger, and lost a fourth trick despite neutralizing the  $\diamond J$  when Chen got a late heart ruff with the  $\clubsuit J$  after declarer had played the ace and king of clubs early. 1 IMP to YOI, 31-51.

|                       |               |                 |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 22                |               | North           |                  |
| Dir: East             |               | ♠ 7             |                  |
| Vul: E/W              |               | ♥ K6            |                  |
|                       |               | ♦ AQ10875       |                  |
|                       |               | ♣ 7654          |                  |
| West                  |               | East            |                  |
| ♠ AKQJ2               |               | ♠ 853           |                  |
| ♥ QJ1084              |               | ♥ 3             |                  |
| ♦ ---                 |               | ♦ KJ943         |                  |
| ♣ AJ10                |               | ♣ KQ93          |                  |
|                       |               | South           |                  |
|                       |               | ♠ 10964         |                  |
|                       |               | ♥ A9752         |                  |
|                       |               | ♦ 62            |                  |
|                       |               | ♣ 82            |                  |
| Open Room             |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>           | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i>        | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                       |               | Pass            | Pass             |
| 1♠                    | 3♦            | Pass            | Pass             |
| 3♥                    | Pass          | 3NT             | All Pass         |
| Closed Room           |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>           | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>          | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                       |               | Pass            | 2♥(1)            |
| All Pass              |               |                 |                  |
| (1) 4+♥/4+♠, 0-10 HCP |               |                 |                  |

The Chen-Furuta “weak majors” 2♥ achieved another big result in its second appearance in the Daily Bulletin. Doron was handcuffed over 2♥ and didn’t want to risk a double with so little in the minors. Izzy was close to reopening 2♥, but when he passed, Chen went four down, for -200, which was likely to be inadequate compensation to E/W for their vulnerable game. In 3NT, Nakamura managed 11 tricks on a diamond lead to the queen and king when he was able to knock out the high hearts and the defense did not cash North’s ♦A; +660. 10 IMPs to YOI, 41-51.

Israel got those IMPs back with interest on the next deal...



“...and then my plan for world domination will take effect.”

|                |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 23         |               | North           |                  |
| Dir: South     |               | ♠ K53           |                  |
| Vul: Both      |               | ♥ K63           |                  |
|                |               | ♦ J4            |                  |
|                |               | ♣ A10964        |                  |
| West           |               | East            |                  |
| ♠ Q87          |               | ♠ A1094         |                  |
| ♥ QJ102        |               | ♥ 987           |                  |
| ♦ AKQ1063      |               | ♦ 875           |                  |
| ♣ ---          |               | ♣ KQJ           |                  |
|                |               | South           |                  |
|                |               | ♠ J62           |                  |
|                |               | ♥ A54           |                  |
|                |               | ♦ 92            |                  |
|                |               | ♣ 87532         |                  |
| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |               | Pass            | Pass             |
| 1♦             | Pass          | 1♠              | Pass             |
| 2♦             | Pass          | 3♦              | Pass             |
| 3♠             | Pass          | 4♠              | All Pass         |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                |               | Pass            | Pass             |
| 1♦             | Pass          | 1♠              | Pass             |
| 2♥             | Pass          | 2NT             | Pass             |
| 3♠             | Pass          | 3NT             | All Pass         |

Against 3NT, Chen led a low heart to Furuta’s king, and a cub switch went to the queen. Declarer knocked out the ♥A, and South broke spades in an attempt to defeat the contract: +660. Against Nakamura’s remarkably obscure 4♠, Campanile led ♥A, ♥5 to the king, and Barel switched to the ♣10. Nakamura could have made his contract by winning the ♣K, and leading a spade to the eight (or crossing to a diamond to pass the ♠8), but decided to ruff the ♣K in dummy to lead the ♠Q, which Barel covered. Now the defenders were in control and might have negotiated two down, but settled for the ♠J and the ♣A, and Nakamura was -100. Israel gained 13 IMPs and led 64-13.



“Sayonara.”

|                |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 24         | North         |                 |                  |
| Dlr: West      | ♠ K7643       |                 |                  |
| Vul: None      | ♥ Q962        |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ AJ2         |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ A           |                 |                  |
| West           | East          |                 |                  |
| ♠ J1098        | ♠ AQ          |                 |                  |
| ♥ K1085        | ♥ A743        |                 |                  |
| ♦ Q93          | ♦ 874         |                 |                  |
| ♣ 84           | ♣ J1092       |                 |                  |
|                | South         |                 |                  |
|                | ♠ 52          |                 |                  |
|                | ♥ J           |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ K1065       |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ KQ7653      |                 |                  |
| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass            | 1NT              |
| Pass           | 2♥            | Pass            | 2♠               |
| All Pass       |               |                 |                  |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass            | 1NT              |
| Pass           | 2♥            | Pass            | 3♣               |
| All Pass       |               |                 |                  |

In 2♠, Barel got the lead of the ♣J to his ace. He led a heart to the jack and king and ducked Shimizu's switch to the ♠J. Nakamura cashed the ♠A, and exited with a diamond to the nine and jack. Barel cashed the ♠K and crossed to the ♦K to play high clubs, discarding hearts: +110. Against Chen's 3♣, Doron led a diamond to the eight and ten, solving declarer's main problem, and the rest proved straightforward, +110, no swing.

Then this remarkable little number came along...

|            |          |  |  |
|------------|----------|--|--|
| Bd: 27     | North    |  |  |
| Dlr: South | ♠ 64     |  |  |
| Vul: None  | ♥ 642    |  |  |
|            | ♦ 962    |  |  |
|            | ♣ 107532 |  |  |
| West       | East     |  |  |
| ♠ 1085     | ♠ KQJ3   |  |  |
| ♥ AK108    | ♥ J753   |  |  |
| ♦ K873     | ♦ J104   |  |  |
| ♣ QJ       | ♣ K9     |  |  |
|            | South    |  |  |
|            | ♠ A972   |  |  |
|            | ♥ Q9     |  |  |
|            | ♦ AQ5    |  |  |
|            | ♣ A864   |  |  |

|                |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |               |                 | 1NT              |
| All Pass       |               |                 |                  |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                |               |                 | 1NT              |
| Pass           | Pass          | Dbl             | Pass             |
| Pass           | 2♣            | All Pass        |                  |

In the Open Room, Shimizu found the excellent lead of the ♠5 against 1NT. Campanile took the jack with the ace to play ♣A, club. Nakamura got the spades wrong by cashing the queen and king, establishing declarer's nine, but then switched accurately to the ♥3, queen, king. Shimizu, misreading the heart position, switched in turn to a diamond, so Campanile chalked up a delicious +120. There is nothing on the Yadrins' convention card to explain Izzy's double of 1NT or Doron's subsequent reticence, but we promise to investigate. Against 2♣, the defense took its major-suit winners without incident, but Furuta was able to eliminate those suits and trumps before leading the ♦9 from hand. Izzy did not cover, so Furuta passed it and so made his unmakeable contract, +90. 1 strange IMP to Israel, 65-42.

|                |              |                 |                  |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 28         | North        |                 |                  |
| Dlr: West      | ♠ 943        |                 |                  |
| Vul: N/S       | ♥ A107       |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ AKJ107     |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ 107        |                 |                  |
| West           | East         |                 |                  |
| ♠ 2            | ♠ KQ1075     |                 |                  |
| ♥ K9642        | ♥ Q          |                 |                  |
| ♦ 92           | ♦ Q86        |                 |                  |
| ♣ AKJ86        | ♣ Q943       |                 |                  |
|                | South        |                 |                  |
|                | ♠ AJ86       |                 |                  |
|                | ♥ J853       |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ 543        |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ 52         |                 |                  |
| Open Room      |              |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
| 1♥             | 2♦           | 2♠              | 3♦               |
| All Pass       |              |                 |                  |

| Closed Room  |               |               |             |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| West         | North         | East          | South       |
| <i>Doron</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Chen</i> |
| 1♥           | Pass          | 1♠            | Pass        |
| 2♣           | Pass          | 3♣            | All Pass    |

3♦ was one down, -100, but 3♣ made four, +130, and Israel gained another IMP, 66-42.

The last significant swing of the second quarter came on the next deal...

|                |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 29         | North         |                 |                  |
| Dlr: North     | ♠ 43          |                 |                  |
| Vul: Both      | ♥ 109764      |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ AQ94        |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ 102         |                 |                  |
|                | West          |                 | East             |
|                | ♠ J           |                 | ♠ Q76            |
|                | ♥ Q853        |                 | ♥ AJ2            |
|                | ♦ 1082        |                 | ♦ 7653           |
|                | ♣ KJ973       |                 | ♣ A64            |
|                |               | South           |                  |
|                |               | ♠ AK109852      |                  |
|                |               | ♥ K             |                  |
|                |               | ♦ KJ            |                  |
|                |               | ♣ Q85           |                  |
| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                | Pass          | Pass            | 1♠               |
| Pass           | 1NT           | Pass            | 3♠               |
| All Pass       |               |                 |                  |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                | Pass          | Pass            | 1♠               |
| Pass           | 2♥(NF)        | Pass            | 3♠               |
| Pass           | 4♠            | All Pass        |                  |

Against Campanile's 3♠, the defense started with two rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffed, cashed ace-king of trumps and the ♦K, and overtook the ♦J. When the ♦10 dropped tripleton, declarer threw two clubs on the ♦Q9 and lost only a spade and a club for +170.

Against Chen's 4♠ (Furuta's T-shirt collection

includes a vast number of "passing is dangerous" variants), Doron led the singleton jack of trumps around to the ace. Chen exited with the ♥K, and Izzy took the ♥A to switch to a low club. The defenders played three rounds to force dummy, and now Izzy could be sure of a trump trick to set the contract, -100. 7 IMPs to Israel, ahead 73-42.

|                |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bd: 30         | North         |                 |                  |
| Dlr: East      | ♠ K7          |                 |                  |
| Vul: None      | ♥ J109        |                 |                  |
|                | ♦ QJ94        |                 |                  |
|                | ♣ J543        |                 |                  |
|                | West          |                 | East             |
|                | ♠ J2          |                 | ♠ AQ98           |
|                | ♥ K76543      |                 | ♥ A              |
|                | ♦ A53         |                 | ♦ K872           |
|                | ♣ A6          |                 | ♣ Q1098          |
|                |               | South           |                  |
|                |               | ♠ 106543        |                  |
|                |               | ♥ Q82           |                  |
|                |               | ♦ 106           |                  |
|                |               | ♣ K72           |                  |
| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
|                |               | 1♦              | Pass             |
| 1♥             | Pass          | 1♠              | Pass             |
| 2♣             | Pass          | 3♣              | Pass             |
| 3♦             | Pass          | 3NT             | All Pass         |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
|                |               | 1♣              | Pass             |
| 1♥             | Pass          | 1♠              | Pass             |
| 2♦             | Pass          | 3♦              | Pass             |
| 3NT            | All Pass      |                 |                  |

Against Nakamura's 3NT, Campanile led the ♠6, deuce, king, ace. Declarer played the ♣10 to the ace, and a club to the nine and king. He had three spades, two hearts, two diamonds, and two clubs for +400.

It was more difficult for Doron, on the lead of the ♦Q. He let that hold, won the low-diamond continuation in hand, and played the ♠J to the

king and ace before cashing the ♥A and playing ♠Q, ♠8 to the ten. Chen exited with a spade and Doron won with dummy's nine, cashed the ♦K, and exited with a diamond to Furuta, with the club suit frozen for the defense. Furuta got out with the ♥10 (devilishly concealing his jack), but Doron won and played a heart, and Chen, in with the queen, had to lead from the ♣K around to dummy's queen for Doron's ninth trick. Although in theory it would have been better for Chen to unblock the ♥Q to let Furuta break clubs in the endgame, in practice, Doron was going to get the suit right. A handsome push at E/W +400.

| Open Room      |               |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| West           | North         | East            | South            |
| <i>Shimizu</i> | <i>Barel</i>  | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Campanile</i> |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass            | 1♦               |
| Pass           | 2♦            | 2♠              | 2♣               |
| Closed Room    |               |                 |                  |
| West           | North         | East            | South            |
| <i>Doron</i>   | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Israel</i>   | <i>Chen</i>      |
| 1♥             | Dbf           | 2♣              | 1♣               |
| 2♥             | 3♦            | 3♥              | 2♦               |
|                |               |                 | All Pass         |

|            |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|
| Bd: 31     | North    |          |
| Dlr: South | ♠ A1092  |          |
| Vul: N/S   | ♥ 84     |          |
|            | ♦ Q842   |          |
|            | ♣ J97    |          |
|            | West     | East     |
|            | ♠ J7     | ♠ KQ8643 |
|            | ♥ KJ962  | ♥ Q103   |
|            | ♦ 10975  | ♦ A      |
|            | ♣ Q6     | ♣ K42    |
|            | South    |          |
|            | ♠ 5      |          |
|            | ♥ A75    |          |
|            | ♦ KJ63   |          |
|            | ♣ A10853 |          |

2♠ made two, but 3♥, although it ran into a spade ruff, made three. Another IMP to Israel.

Israel won the second quarter 39-26, and led at the half by 33 IMPs, 75-42.

The last 32 boards of the finals will appear in tonight's banquet edition of the bulletin. You won't want to miss it.



A Family Portrait

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## JCBL Smoking Policy

### NEC Cup:

Once play in a qualifying-round match or a knockout-round session has started, smoking is prohibited (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom) until his table has finished all the boards for that segment.

### Other events:

Once a session has started, and until all tables have finished, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, to be announced by the Director.

### Smoking area:

Please do not smoke in the area immediately outside the playing room (to avoid second-hand smoke entering the room). Players may smoke outside the building or in smoking areas with ashtrays well away from the playing room.

Penalties for violations may be assessed by the Director.

## A Not-So-Grand Grand

(as told to your faithful correspondent by Kazuo Takano)

I sat East for the first session of Saturday's Yokohama Swiss. At favorable vulnerability I picked up:

|            |
|------------|
| ♠ ---      |
| ♥ AKQJxxxx |
| ♦ ---      |
| ♣ QJ109    |

South, my LHO, dealt and passed and to my pleasant surprise partner opened 1♦. The auction then continued:

| West   | North  | East<br><i>Takano</i> | South |
|--------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
|        |        |                       | Pass  |
| 1♦     | 1♠     | 2♥                    | 2♠    |
| Pass   | Pass   | 3♠                    | Pass  |
| 4♣     | Pass   | 5NT(1)                | Pass  |
| 6♣(2)  | Pass   | 6♥(3)                 | Pass  |
| 6NT(4) | Dbl    | 7♥(5)                 | Pass  |
| Pass   | Dbl(6) | All Pass              |       |

(1) GSF: bid 7♣, partner, if you have two of the top three club honors  
 (2) I don't have two, but I have one of them  
 (3) That's not enough  
 (4) I have a better idea—let's play notrump!  
 (5) Veto  
 (6) No kidding!?

Over my 3♠ cue-bid partner's 4♣ bid showed a club suit or control, in either case allowing me to find out just what I needed to know in order to

decide whether it was safe to bid 7♥. I bid 5NT (Grand Slam Force) to find out how many of the missing top clubs he had. Once I learned that I could place the contract at the six or seven level depending on his answer. I was disappointed to find out he had only one of the clubs, and signed off in 6♥. Then the bottom fell out.

Partner forgot that I had assumed control of the auction with my 5NT bid and appears to have interpreted my 6♥ as some sort of request for his input as to the final strain (perhaps believing that I was giving him a choice between 6♥, 6NT and 7♣). When he converted 6♥ to 6NT and RHO doubled, I was certain I could hold 7♥ to at most one down (barring someone ruffing a club ruff at trick one or two) so I opted for the safer seven-level contract. South made another "sporting" double and that ended the proceedings.

Partner put down the following dummy...

|         |
|---------|
| ♠ Kxxx  |
| ♥ ---   |
| ♦ KQJxx |
| ♣ Kxxx  |

...and I "escaped" for down one, -100—lose 14 (6♥ at the other table for 980 plus another 100 at this table)?! Not quite. The pair sitting E/W at the other table stopped in only 4♥ making six, for +480, so we lost only 11 IMPs (480 + 100 = 580). What a bargain!

### Rosters of Teams in the Quarter-finals: 11<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

| # | Name   | Members |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Israel: Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile  |         |
| 2 | Italy: Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi |         |
| 3 | YOI: Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu           |         |
| 4 | WBF Women (France): Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard                   |         |
| 5 | OzOne-Neill: Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire  |         |
| 6 | USA/Kasle: Gaylor Kasle, Garey Hayden, John Onstott, John Sutherland   |         |
| 7 | OzOne-Del'Monte: Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans                                 |         |
| 8 | TAJIMA: Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Hideki Takano, Hiroshi Kaku, Masaaki Takayama      |         |

# Little Things Mean a Lot

by Ron Klinger

Try this defensive problem.

|       |         |
|-------|---------|
|       | East    |
|       | ♠ 10865 |
|       | ♥ 10874 |
|       | ♦ A76   |
|       | ♣ Q4    |
| South |         |
|       | ♠ A4    |
|       | ♥ K53   |
|       | ♦ Q1094 |
|       | ♣ J987  |

With both sides vulnerable:

| West | North | East     | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | Pass  |
| 1♣   | Pass  | 1♥       | Pass  |
| 1♠   | Pass  | Pass     | Dbf   |
| Pass | 1NT   | All Pass |       |

The play goes:

- ♠8: four, queen, king
- ♦8: six, four, king
- ♠2: three, five, ace
- ♦Q: two, three, ace
- ♠6: ♦9 from dummy, ♠J, ♠9
- ♠7: ♣5 from North, ♠10, ♥3 from dummy

What would you play next as East?

The deals that appear in Daily Bulletins or tournament reports usually feature a big swing, something spectacular or high-level contracts. Often the struggle between declarer and the defence at a low level can be just as fascinating. So it was early on in the semi-finals:

|            |         |         |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Bd: 7      | ♠ K93   |         |
| Dir: South | ♥ AQJ6  |         |
| Vul: Both  | ♦ J83   |         |
|            | ♣ 1065  |         |
| ♠ QJ72     |         | ♠ 10865 |
| ♥ 92       |         | ♥ 10874 |
| ♦ K52      |         | ♦ A76   |
| ♣ AK32     |         | ♣ Q4    |
|            | ♠ A4    |         |
|            | ♥ K53   |         |
|            | ♦ Q1094 |         |
|            | ♣ J987  |         |

At two tables E/W had a comfortable time:

| West             | North           | East             | South            |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Kranyak</i>   | <i>Grainger</i> | <i>Grue</i>      | <i>Lavee</i>     |
| <i>G.Grenthe</i> | <i>Bruas</i>    | <i>J.Grenthe</i> | <i>Araszkiev</i> |
|                  |                 |                  | Pass             |
| 1♣/♦1            | Pass            | 1♥               | Pass             |
| 1♠               | Pass            | 2♠               | All Pass         |

This contract was safe and at both tables a trump was led. Grenthe made eight tricks and Kranyak scored an overtrick. After three rounds of spades, he led hearts and South pitched a club on the third heart.

The interesting battles took place at the other tables:

| West           | North       | East         | South             |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Wolpert</i> | <i>Hurd</i> | <i>Demuy</i> | <i>Wooldridge</i> |
|                |             |              | Pass              |
| 1♣             | Pass        | 1♥           | Pass              |
| 1NT            | All Pass    |              |                   |

North led the ♦3 to the queen and king. West played the ♠J: three, five, ace, and South returned the ♦4: five, eight, seven. North continued with the ♦J: ace, ten, two. The ♠6 came from dummy to the queen and king and North did very well to shift to the ♥6: four, king, two. This was the position:

|        |          |        |
|--------|----------|--------|
|        | ♠ 9      |        |
|        | ♥ A Q J  |        |
|        | ♦ ---    |        |
|        | ♣ 10 6 5 |        |
| ♠ 72   |          | ♠ 108  |
| ♥ 9    |          | ♥ 1087 |
| ♦ ---  |          | ♦ ---  |
| ♣ AK32 |          | ♣ Q4   |
|        | ♠ ---    |        |
|        | ♥ 53     |        |
|        | ♦ 9      |        |
|        | ♣ J987   |        |

South cashed the ♦9 and had to decide what to play next. The play on the ♦9 was significant. West threw the ♣2, North the ♠9 and East the ♠8. No sooner had the words 'Fine defence' appeared on BBO when South switched to a club and declarer had seven tricks for +90, but 2



Imps to USA1. No doubt North thought the low heart switch was sufficient guidance for South, but a club-discouraging discard from North on the  $\diamond 9$  might have confirmed to South that a heart return was necessary.

Finally:

| West       | North    | East     | South        |
|------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Kotorowicz | O.Bessis | Kalita   | De Tessieres |
| 1♣         | Pass     | 1♥       | Pass         |
| 1♠         | Pass     | Pass     | Dbl          |
| Pass       | 1NT      | All Pass |              |

East led the  $\spadesuit 8$ : four, queen (*sic*), king, and declarer played the  $\diamond 8$ : six, four, king. The  $\spadesuit 2$  took out the ace, East playing the  $\spadesuit 5$ . The  $\diamond Q$  came from dummy: two, three, ace. When East continued with the  $\spadesuit 6$  to the jack, declarer discarded the  $\diamond 9$  from dummy. This was the position:

|        |        |         |
|--------|--------|---------|
|        | ♠ ---  |         |
|        | ♥ AQJ6 |         |
|        | ♦ J    |         |
|        | ♣ 1065 |         |
| ♠ 7    |        | ♠ 10    |
| ♥ 92   |        | ♥ 10874 |
| ♦ 5    |        | ♦ 7     |
| ♣ AK32 |        | ♣ Q4    |
|        | ♠ ---  |         |
|        | ♥ K53  |         |
|        | ♦ 10   |         |
|        | ♣ J987 |         |

When the next spade was played, North threw the  $\clubsuit 5$  and South the  $\heartsuit 3$ . The spotlight was on East. What should he play next? To the viewing audience a club was obvious. When East chose the 'safe' heart exit, declarer had seven tricks for the first 5 Imps to France.

Could East have found the solution? When West won the first diamond with the king, it was reasonable to place declarer with the  $\diamond J$ . When East won the second diamond, dummy's  $\diamond 109$  were winners. Why then did declarer discard a winner on the third spade? Because he already had enough tricks for his contract or because he had started with  $\diamond J853$ . If he had enough tricks the other winners would have to be in hearts, as he could not count on three or four winners in clubs.

Another aspect: West has shown up with 6 HCP and can have 6-8 more points. The only combination of those points which will give the defense three more tricks is the  $\clubsuit AK$  (with nothing in hearts or with  $\heartsuit Qx$  or  $\heartsuit Qxx$ , declarer would not have thrown a heart from dummy when a club discard was safe). It is difficult to switch to the  $\clubsuit Q$ , but perhaps not impossible.



"Next letter: 'O' 61."



"All of me, why not take all of me..."



"Eat your heart out, Pietro."



"Puff, the magic dragon..."

## 3NT the Hard Way

by Ron Klinger

All four tables played in 3NT on this deal from the third session of the semi-finals. In each match one declarer succeeded and the other failed.

|            |          |          |  |
|------------|----------|----------|--|
| Bd: 47     | ♠ 3      |          |  |
| Dlr: South | ♥ QJ62   |          |  |
| Vul: N/S   | ♦ J10986 |          |  |
|            | ♣ A104   |          |  |
| ♠ KQJ76    |          | ♠ 95     |  |
| ♥ K987     |          | ♥ A5     |  |
| ♦ AQ2      |          | ♦ K73    |  |
| ♣ 5        |          | ♣ KJ7632 |  |
|            | ♠ A10842 |          |  |
|            | ♥ 1043   |          |  |
|            | ♦ 54     |          |  |
|            | ♣ Q98    |          |  |

Canada vs USA1:

| West             | North          | East        | South        |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Greenberg</i> | <i>Wolpert</i> | <i>Lall</i> | <i>Demuy</i> |
| 1♠               | Pass           | 2♣          | Pass         |
| 2♥               | Pass           | 2NT         | Pass         |
| 3NT              | All Pass       |             |              |

Opening Lead: ♦5

Declarer won with the ♦K and led the ♠5: four, king, three. A heart to the ace was followed by the ♠9 to the queen. Declarer exited with the ♣5 from dummy and North flew ace to return the ♦J. The ♦A was cashed and South threw the ♠8. Declarer cashed the ♥K and was one down for +50 to Canada.

| West         | North       | East            | South             |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lavee</i> | <i>Hurd</i> | <i>Grainger</i> | <i>Wooldridge</i> |
| 1♠           | Pass        | 1NT             | Pass              |
| 2♥           | Pass        | 2NT             | Pass              |
| 3NT          | All Pass    |                 |                   |

Opening Lead: ♠2

Declarer ducked in dummy and won with the ♠9. He continued with the ♠5: ten, king and North discarded the ♦J. The ♠Q came next, ducked by

South, with North and East throwing clubs. When the ♣5 was played North played the ten and declarer the king, followed by the ♣2 to North's ace. North shifted to the ♦10, taken by the king, and the next club went to South. When South did not cash the ♠A, declarer had the rest of the tricks for +460 and 11 Imps to Canada. That was 3NT the easy way.

France vs Poland:

| West                 | North         | East            | South             |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <i>De Tessierres</i> | <i>Kalita</i> | <i>O.Bessis</i> | <i>Kotorowicz</i> |
| 1♠                   | Pass          | 2♣              | Pass              |
| 2♥                   | Pass          | 2NT             | Pass              |
| 3NT                  | All Pass      |                 |                   |

Opening Lead: ♥4

North played the ♥J on dummy's nine and East won to play the ♠5: four, king, three. Dummy's ♦2 went to the jack and king, and East continued with the ♠9 to the queen. North pitched the ♦10. On the ♣5, North grabbed the ace since he could lock declarer in dummy. The ♦6 went to the ace and declarer cashed the ♦Q, South discarding the ♣8. The low heart from dummy was taken by North's queen and he cashed the diamond winner. The heart return left declarer in dummy to lose the last two spades for one down. +50 to Poland.

| West         | North           | East                | South          |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <i>Buras</i> | <i>T.Bessis</i> | <i>Araszkiewicz</i> | <i>Gaviard</i> |
| 1♠           | Pass            | 2♣                  | Pass           |
| 2♥           | Pass            | 3♣                  | Pass           |
| 3NT          | All Pass        |                     |                |

Opening Lead: ♦J

This was the only table where West was declarer. The ♣J lead went to the ace and declarer played the ♣5: four, king, eight. Had he known clubs were three-three, he could have continued them and had an easy time with four club tricks and five red-suit winners. However, with one club trick in the bag it was natural to try for three spade winners. How hard could that be?

At trick 3 the ♠5 went to the king, followed by the ♠Q. Bad news, as North discarded the ♣10. South took the ♠A and played the ♦5 to the king. Declarer reverted to clubs to North's ace, discarding the ♥9 from dummy. North exited with the ♦10 to the queen, South letting the ♥3 go. This was now the position:

|       |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|
|       | ♠ ---  |        |
|       | ♥ QJ62 |        |
|       | ♦ 96   |        |
|       | ♣ ---  |        |
| ♠ J76 |        | ♠ ---  |
| ♥ K87 |        | ♥ A5   |
| ♦ --- |        | ♦ ---  |
| ♣ --- |        | ♣ J763 |
|       | ♠ 1084 |        |
|       | ♥ 104  |        |
|       | ♦ ---  |        |
|       | ♣ Q    |        |

East cashed the ♥AK and exited from dummy with the ♠7. South won with the ♠8 and cashed the ♣Q, but dummy had the last two tricks. Declarer had made 3NT the hard way for +400 and 10 Imps to Poland.



"if this is is love, what have I done to deserve it?"

## An Elegant Ending

by Ron Klinger

If you simply glance down at a scorecard when looking for deals to report, it is easy to miss a pretty play when there is no swing, especially if it is a partscore. Take a look at this board from the second session of the semi-finals:

|            |           |          |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| Bd: 29     | ♠ K82     |          |
| Dir: North | ♥ QJ862   |          |
| Vul: Both  | ♦ 964     |          |
|            | ♣ 52      |          |
| ♠ Q943     |           | ♠ J10765 |
| ♥ 953      |           | ♥ A74    |
| ♦ J872     |           | ♦ K3     |
| ♣ A9       |           | ♣ KQ4    |
|            | ♠ A       |          |
|            | ♥ K10     |          |
|            | ♦ AQ105   |          |
|            | ♣ J108763 |          |

In Canada vs USA1 the bidding started the same way at both tables:

| West   | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|------|-------|
| 2♠ ... | Pass  | 1♠   | 2♣    |

At one table this was passed out. At the other South reopened with 2NT, both minors with longer clubs, and West bid 3♠ at once. Both declarers were one down after a club lead.

France vs Poland:

| West           | North               | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Gaviard</i> | <i>Araszkievicz</i> | <i>T.Bessis</i> | <i>Buras</i> |
|                | Pass                | 1♠              | 2♣           |
| 2♠             | Pass                | Pass            | 2NT          |
| 3♥             | All Pass            |                 |              |

Opening Lead: ♠A

At trick 2 South shifted to the ♣J, taken by the ace and the ♠Q fetched the king. North shifted to the ♥6, won by the ace and South carefully unblocking the ♥K. The ♠J drew the last trump. Declarer discarded a heart loser on the third club and exited with a heart. North naturally overtook South's ♥10 and switched to the ♦6. One down. +100 to Poland.

At the other table:

| West              | North           | East          | South               |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <i>Kotorowicz</i> | <i>O.Bessis</i> | <i>Kalita</i> | <i>De Tessieres</i> |
|                   | Pass            | 1♠            | 2♣                  |
| 2♠                | Pass            | Pass          | 2NT                 |
| Pass              | 3♣              | All Pass      |                     |

pitch two diamond losers and finesse the ♠Q to make the contract. East therefore returned the ♣4, to West's ace. As he could not afford a major suit exit, West played the ♠2 to the king and ace. This was the position:

Opening Lead: ♠3

This looked like a swing to Poland. South has to lose three trump tricks and the ♥A, and how can he avoid a diamond loser if the opponents hold off on the first round of hearts, assuming South starts with the ♥K?

De Tessieres showed us how. He won the spade lead and led the ♣J, ducked to the queen. Back came the ♠5. Most of us would throw a diamond loser, win with the ♠K and take a diamond finesse. At the end of the day we would lose a diamond for one down.

Despite dummy having no sure reentry, De Tessieres ruffed the ♠5 and played the ♥K, ducked, followed by the ♥10, taken by the ace. A spade from East now would allow declarer to

|       |        |       |
|-------|--------|-------|
|       | ♠ K    |       |
|       | ♥ QJ8  |       |
|       | ♦ 96   |       |
|       | ♣ ---  |       |
| ♠ Q9  |        | ♠ J76 |
| ♥ 5   |        | ♥ 4   |
| ♦ J87 |        | ♦ 3   |
| ♣ --- |        | ♣ K   |
|       | ♠ ---  |       |
|       | ♥ ---  |       |
|       | ♦ Q105 |       |
|       | ♣ 1087 |       |

De Tessieres cashed the ♠Q and exited with a trump. East won and as he had only major-suit cards left, away went South's diamond losers.

## Images of Our Game



"Could you check to see what the gefilte fish futures are going for?"



"It's a prenuptial..."



"And now let us prey."



"Play something...  
...anything!"



"Glug, glug, glug..."



"If I press down hard enough  
maybe the top of my head  
won't blow off."

# Highlights of the 2005 World Championship Finals

by Eric Kokish

Bd: 5                    ♠ 2  
 Dir: North            ♥ J52  
 Vul: N/S              ♦ 10875  
                              ♣ KQ652

♠ J987                    ♠ K10543  
 ♥ A106                  ♥ KQ97  
 ♦ 96                      ♦ AKQ  
 ♣ J843                  ♣ 10

♠ AQ6  
 ♥ 843  
 ♦ J432  
 ♣ A97

| West           | North         | East              | South          |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Rodwell</i> | <i>Lauria</i> | <i>Meckstroth</i> | <i>Versace</i> |
|                | Pass          | 1♣(1)             | Pass           |
| 1♦(2)          | Pass          | 1♠(3)             | Pass           |
| 3♠             | Pass          | 4♠                | All Pass       |

(1) Strong; (2) 0-7 HCP  
 (3) F1, might be four if 3-suiter or longer minor

| West          | North         | East          | South          |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Hamman</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Soloway</i> |
|               | Pass          | 1♠            | Pass           |
| 2♠(1)         | Pass          | 3♥            | Pass           |
| 4♠            | All Pass      |               |                |

(1) 7-8(9) HCP, three trumps

| West             | North           | East         | South          |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>von Arnim</i> | <i>d'Ovidio</i> | <i>Auken</i> | <i>Gaviard</i> |
|                  | Pass            | 1♣(1)        | Pass           |
| 1♦(2)            | Pass            | 1♠(3)        | Pass           |
| 2NT(4)           | Pass            | 3♣(5)        | Pass           |
| 3♠(6)            | Pass            | 4♠           | All Pass       |

(1) Strong; (2) 0-7 HCP  
 (3) NF, 4+♠, longer minor possible  
 (4) 4♠, any "fit" jump; (5) Inquiry; 6i) "Fit" in ♥

| West           | North             | East           | South          |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Willard</i> | <i>Schraverus</i> | <i>Cronier</i> | <i>Alberti</i> |
|                | Pass              | 1♠             | Pass           |
| 2♠             | Pass              | 3♥             | Pass           |
| 4♠             | All Pass          |                |                |

All the E/W pairs had no trouble reaching 4♠. Versace and Gaviard led the ♥3, Soloway and Alberti the ♦2. Auken (the partnership had changed this part of the system only recently, and von Arnim couldn't remember where it rested: the "correct" bid over 1♠ was 3♦, four trumps, 5-7 HCP, no shortness, no good side suit) and Meckstroth took the heart lead with dummy's ace to pass the ♠J. Bocchi took the diamond lead with the ace and advanced the ♠K from hand. Cronier won the ♦K and led the ♣10 to the queen, won the diamond continuation with the ace and tried a low spade from hand. Everyone lost two trumps and a club for +420. USA, 25-10, France, 17-0.

Bd: 6                    ♠ 872  
 Dir: East              ♥ Q532  
 Vul: E/W              ♦ 8754  
                              ♣ A8

♠ K1043                  ♠ QJ6  
 ♥ AJ                      ♥ K10764  
 ♦ 2                        ♦ J103  
 ♣ J109764              ♣ Q3

♠ A95  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ AKQ96  
 ♣ K52

| West           | North         | East              | South          |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Rodwell</i> | <i>Lauria</i> | <i>Meckstroth</i> | <i>Versace</i> |
|                |               | Pass              | 1NT            |
| 2♣(1)          | Db1(2)        | Rdbl(3)           | Pass           |
| 2♠             | Pass          | Pass              | 3NT            |
|                |               |                   | All Pass       |

(1) Natural, with secondary major  
 (2) Negative double  
 (3) Values, interest in West's major

| West          | North         | East          | South          |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Hamman</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Soloway</i> |
|               |               | Pass          | 1♣(1)          |
| Pass          | 1♦(2)         | Pass          | 1NT            |
|               |               |               | All Pass       |

(1) Strong; (2) 0-7

|                                 |                           |                |                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>West</b>                     | <b>North</b>              | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>von Arnim d'Ovidio</i>       |                           | <i>Auken</i>   | <i>Gaviard</i> |
|                                 |                           | Pass           | 1NT            |
| Dbl(1)                          | Pass                      | 2♣(2)          | 2♦             |
| Pass                            | 3♦                        | All Pass       |                |
| (1) Long minor, shorter major   |                           |                |                |
| (2) Pass-or-correct to diamonds |                           |                |                |
| <b>West</b>                     | <b>North</b>              | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Willard</i>                  | <i>Schraverus Cronier</i> | <i>Alberti</i> |                |
|                                 |                           | Pass           | 1NT            |
| All Pass                        |                           |                |                |

Although E/W can make 3♣ on Board 6, N/S can outbid them in diamonds, which is, in effect, what transpired in the Venice Cup Open Room (it's likely that Auken would not have sold out to 2♦). 3♦ had four inescapable losers: +110.

The Cronier-Willard methods do not include a method that allows West to describe her hand over an opponent's 1NT opening, so they were unable to enter the auction. Alberti had eight top tricks in 1NT for +120. No swing; France, 17-0.

Duboin could have come in over Soloway's strong club with a natural overcall, but allowed the vulnerability to dissuade him. Apparently, he did not have available to him his side's "vs strong notrump" kit over the 1NT rebid (at the time, the situation was not well discussed; today Duboin believes it's best to treat the delayed double as a strong hand, short in a major).

In the Open Room, where Rodwell had a suitable treatment to enter the auction, Lauria elected to show some values immediately. That convinced Versace that he had a bit more strength than he did, and 3NT was the upshot. Rodwell led the ♣10, Rusinow, to the queen and king. Versace ran the diamonds and Meckstroth followed three-jack(spades)-ten(hearts), in keeping with their reverse suit-preference agreements. That helped Rodwell to discard spade, club, spade, spade. Versace exited with a low spade, but Rodwell won and cleared clubs, and there was no ninth trick; -50. USA gained 5 IMPs, and led 30-10.

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## 11<sup>th</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

| Day/Date         | Time        | Event            | Venue    |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|----------|
| Sunday (Feb. 12) | 10:00-17:00 | Asuka Cup        | F201-204 |
|                  | 18:00-20:30 | Closing Ceremony | F205-206 |

# Way to go Steelers!

